Sandigan rejects Erap bid for preliminary probe

STORY ON PAGE A2

President prays for hostages' safety

BY JULIET L. JAVELLANA

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo last night prayed for the safety of the Dos Palmas hostages and sought Divine intervention to prevent their Abu Sayyaf abductors from harming them.

The President recited the prayer as she delivered a message in a Mass commemorating the

PRESIDENT/ A21

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

FRIDAY, JUNE 1, 2001 ★★ 94 PAGES 9 SECTIONS VOL.16 NO. 173 ₱15

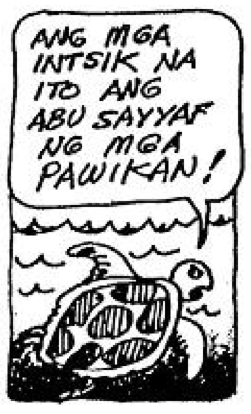
Poachers, not kidnappers

BY G. TICKE AND J. TESORIO

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—No Abu Sayyaf bandits, only Chinese poachers.

Elements of the Philippine National

POACHERS/ A20


ANG MGA INTSIK NA ITO ANG ABU SAYYAF NG MGA PAWIKAN!

Big US naval force arrives

'We're here only for war games,' says American spokesperson

TWO US frigates—one equipped with standard anti-aircraft and anti-ship missiles—yesterday arrived in Subic Bay in Bataan for joint military exercises with the Philippine Navy.

US fighter jets, helicopters and transport planes also landed at Clark Field in Pampanga following military exercises in Thailand. The US aircraft were earlier scheduled to refuel in Puerto Princesa City.

The arrival of the US air and naval forces came after Washington offered to help the government in its war against Abu Sayyaf bandits who seized three Americans and 17 Filipinos from a Palawan resort on Sunday.

But Brig. Gen. Edilberto Adan, Armed Forces spokesperson, said "the presence of the US forces in Clark . . . is not in any way connected with the hostage crisis."

Adan added that the US F/A-18 jets, CH-53 helicopters and C-130 transport planes, together with 100 Marines, were due to leave the country later Thursday for their home base in Okinawa, Japan.

Lt. Leslie Hull-Ryde, spokesperson for the US naval contingent, said that about 1,700 US personnel would join the exercises dubbed "Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (Carat 2001)."

Hull-Ryde also stressed the 11-day exercise scheduled to begin today had nothing to do with the current hostage crisis.

"We're here only for the war games," he said.

The USS Curts and the USS Wadsworth, carrying about 1,000 US personnel, docked at the former US naval base in Subic, about 80

BIG/ A20

Who wants to be a millionaire?

WHO wants to be a millionaire? Join the hunt for Abu Sayyaf bandits and win as much as P100 million. The government offer is good until the last of them falls.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines yesterday released a list of 18 Abu Sayyaf leaders in Sulu and Basilan.

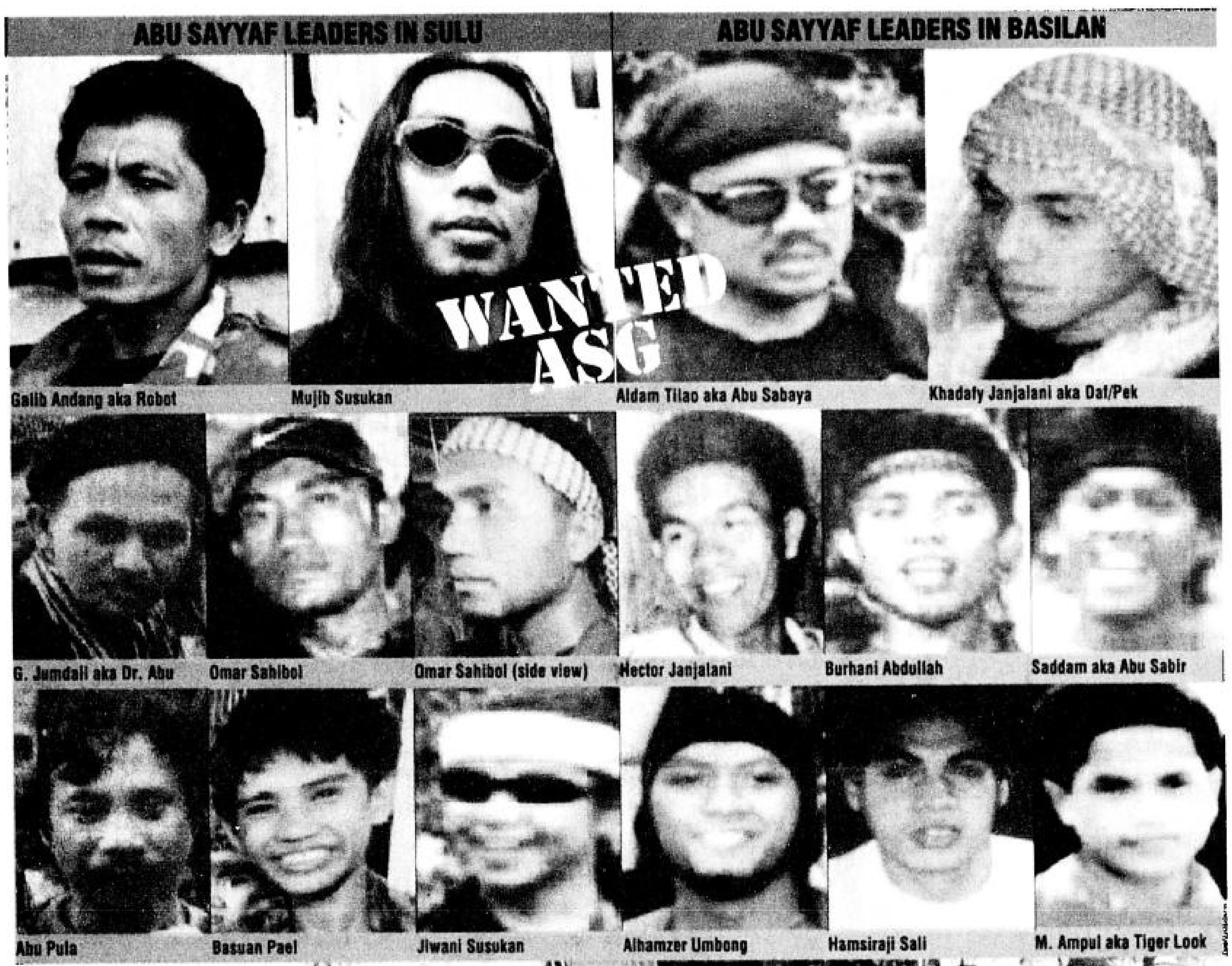
If you have information leading to the capture of any of them, you'll get a P5-million reward.

Help authorities arrest any of their armed followers and you'll be P1 million richer.

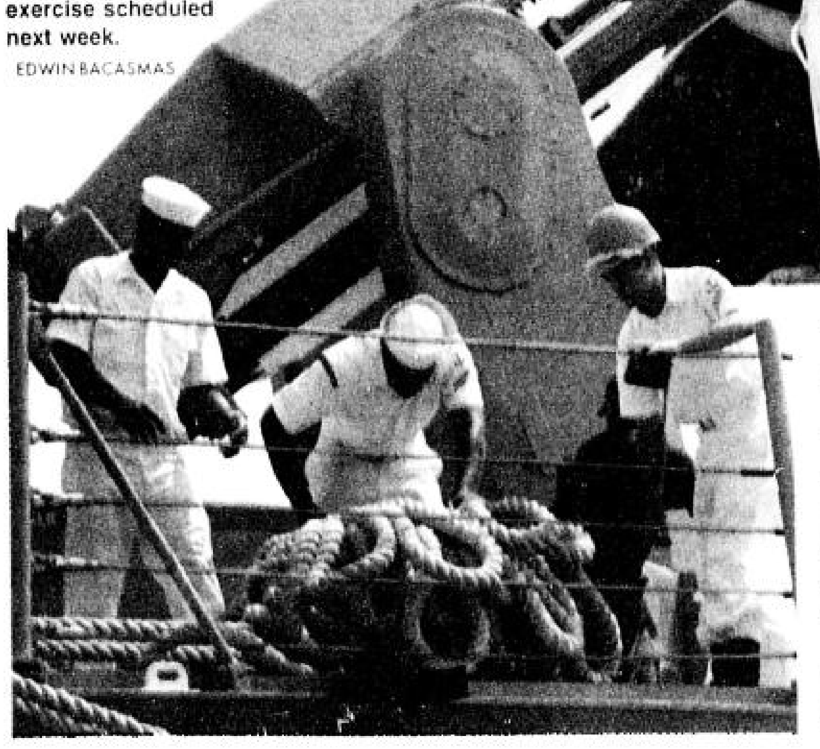
President Macapagal-Arroyo on Monday night offered a P100-million bounty for the Abu Sayyaf leaders and their henchmen after they kidnapped 20 people, including three Americans, at the Dos Palmas resort in Palawan.

Topping the military's wanted list are Abu Sayyaf chieftain Khadafy Janjalani alias Def and Pek; and the group's spokesperson, Aldam Tilao, who has changed his name to Abu Ahmad Salayuddin. He's better known, though, as Abu Sabaya, the bandit you see on television or newspaper with the wrap-

WHO/ A20



JOLO residents gather around wanted posters of Abu Sayyaf leaders who carry a total bounty of P100 million on their heads.
REUTERS



CREWMEN of the USS Wadsworth work on the deck of the warship upon arrival at Subic Port in Olongapo City Thursday. The American troops are here for a joint military exercise scheduled next week.
EDWIN BACASMAS

From Sipadan to Palawan: Abu Sayyaf strikes again

BY NORALYN MUSTAFA
PDI Mindanao Bureau

ANALYSIS

JOLO, Sulu—So the Abu Sayyaf has struck again.

And its latest kidnapping caper was true to form, occurring in an island beach resort expected to have foreign guests, under cover of darkness, and featuring the element of surprise, the use of fast watercraft and a well-planned escape route.

Sipadan, Pandanan, Samal Island and now Palawan—the operations followed an almost identical strategy.

Now the foremost question is: Where are the Abu Sayyaf and its hostages? Anyone familiar with the jungles in the islands and islets of the Sulu archipelago knows that it would be much easier to look for Carmen San Diego.

But there are many other questions.

Why did they do it? Have they spent all those millions of dollars in ransom for the Sipadan hostages and other foreign victims? Or are they simply going to use their lat-

FROM/ A19

Dos Palmas hostages reported in Basilan

BY CARLITO PABLO AND JULIE ALIPALA-INOT
JONATHAN F. MA
PDI Mindanao Bureau

IT appears that the bandit group Abu Sayyaf has given the military the slip.

A day after conceding that the bandits and their hostages might have reached Sulu, Armed Forces spokesperson Brig. Gen. Edilberto Adan said it was "very possible" that they had also landed in Basilan.

In a press briefing late yester-

DOS/ A20

DOUBLE WHAMMY

RP growth sputters to 2.5% in 1st quarter

BY DORIS C. DUMLAO AND CLARISSA BATINO

AN INDUSTRY sector hobbled by political turmoil and a global downturn slowed the country's economic growth to only 2.5 percent in the first three months of the year, the National Economic Development Authority (Neda) said yesterday.

In the corresponding quarter last year, the gross domestic product (GDP), the total amount of goods produced and services rendered in the country, grew 3.3 percent.

Despite the weak GDP growth, the country's gross national product (GNP) managed to grow 3.6 percent, a slight increase from 3.5 percent in the same period last year. Thanks to increased remittances by overseas Filipino workers (OFW).

GNP combines GDP and net income from abroad, up to 80 percent of which is accounted for by OFW remittances. But GDP better reflects the country's economic performance.

In a press briefing, Neda Deputy Director General Gilberto Llanto said yesterday that the political crisis triggered by the "jueteng" scandal and unfavorable external factors slowed down GDP growth.

Massive street protests at Edsa and other parts of the country in January led to the ouster of Presi-

RP/ A6

COMELEC

as of 3 p.m., May 31
99 out of 102 COCs (97.10%)

1	DE CASTRO	15,965,954
2	FLAVIER	11,498,576
3	OSMEÑA	11,357,352
4	DRILON	11,048,036
5	MAGSAYSAY	11,011,019
6	ARROYO	10,965,889
7	VILLAR	10,892,832
8	PANGILINAN	10,706,305
9	ANGARA	10,649,091
10	LACSON	10,481,189
11	EJERCITO	10,341,307
12	HONASAN	10,243,250
13	RECTO	10,194,393
14	ENRILE	9,501,120
15	SANTIAGO	9,478,789
16	PUNO	8,582,578
17	TAÑADA	7,954,824
18	MERCADO	7,713,769
19	PAGDANGANAN	6,956,615
20	HERRERA	6,603,392

Recto drops to 13th but leads JPE by 700,000

BY GERALD G. LACUARTA

WITH only three certificates of canvass containing less than 800,000 votes yet to be counted, the administration's People Power Coalition yesterday expressed confidence that Ralph Recto would remain in the winning circle.

Recto dropped to 13th place from 12th after the deduction of 79,129 votes from him and the 11-2-1 victory of the Puwersa ng Masa over the PPC in Lanao del Norte.

He leads 14th placer Juan Ponce Enrile by 693,273 votes when the Commission on Elections suspended canvassing at 3 p.m. yesterday.

Only three COCs from Eastern Samar, Maguindanao and Lanao del Sur have yet to be canvassed.

PPC spokesperson Conrado Limcaoco said he was certain that

RECTO/ A19

Second FRONT PAGE

WALANG ULITAN!

RP maid convicted for rapist's slay

DUBAI—An appeals court has overturned the acquittal of a Filipino maid who killed her Emirati employer during a drunken rape bid and jailed her for two years, a newspaper reported yesterday.

The court also ordered Mary Jane Ramos to pay the victim's family $40,000.

Although the time has already been served since she was arrested in January 1999, Ramos will not be allowed to leave the country until she pays the *diya*, or blood money, Gulf News said.

"Where will I get this money from?" cried Ramos at Wednesday's court hearing, the daily said.

"What surprised me a little was that she was ordered to pay 150,000 dirhams blood money which is definitely beyond her capabilities . . . she is a housemaid. It is a fortune," Filipino ambassador to the United Arab Emirates Amable Aguiluz told the paper.

An Islamic court in Ras al-Khaimah, a member of the United Arab Emirates federation, ruled in January that Ramos, aged 20 at the time of the incident and on her first day of work in the UAE, had acted in self-defense against a rape attempt by stabbing her drunken employer with a kitchen knife.

A source close to the case said the employer, Mohammad Ali al-Shamsi, 30, was "a very high-ranking figure related" to the ruling family of Ras al-Khaimah.

Hundreds of thousands of Asian women work in the oil-rich Gulf, many as domestic servants earning a monthly wage of less than $200. *AFP*

PLUNDER CASE

Sandigan nixes new Erap probe

BY DONNA S. CUETO
AND MICHAEL LIM UBAC

THE SANDIGANBAYAN yesterday denied for "lack of merit" a motion by lawyers of former President Joseph Estrada to have the plunder case against him remanded to the Ombudsman for preliminary investigation, saying it found "no legal and valid grounds" to do so.

In a seven-page resolution, the Sandigan's third division said that contrary to the Estrada lawyers' claim, records of the case showed that a "preliminary investigation was fully conducted" in the plunder case by the Ombudsman before the case was filed in court.

"All the basic complaints and evidence in support thereof were served upon all the accused, including former President Estrada, who were given sufficient opportunity to file counter-affidavits and other controverting evidence," the resolution said.

The court said Estrada had in fact submitted a counter-affidavit dated March 20, 2001 in the plunder case.

It said Estrada's co-accused—San Juan Mayor Jinggoy Estrada, Yolanda Ricaforte and Edward Serapio—also submitted counter-affidavits.

"The fact that a preliminary investigation was conducted was affirmed by this court in its resolution promulgated April 25, 2001," the resolution said.

The court noted that the Ombudsman had notified Estrada about which of his alleged acts constituted the offense of plunder and bribery, and that he had been directed to file a counter-affidavit and submit "controverting evidence."

Graft case

Estrada managed to file a counter-affidavit in only one graft case against him involving the funds of the Government Service Insurance System and the Social Security System.

That graft case, however, has been withdrawn by government prosecutors who feared it might have led to the issue of double jeopardy being raised by the lawyers of Estrada.

"We have all the evidence in the world (against Estrada)," said Ombudsman Aniano Desierto as he denied that the prosecution panel withdrew the graft case for insufficiency of evidence.

Desierto said it was not special prosecutor Leonardo Tamayo but the Sandiganbayan's second division that had declared the evidence insufficient.

"Tamayo was merely quoting the Sandigan's second division when it approved withdrawal of the graft case two weeks ago," Desierto said.

Desierto made the statement in reaction to an INQUIRER story by reporter Donna S. Cueto that Estrada's lawyers had asked the court to reconsider its decision dismissing the case last Wednesday.

'Illogical, weird'

The prosecution found it "illogical" and "weird" that the defense would oppose the dropping of a case against their own client.

The story had said that Tamayo had agreed with Estrada lawyer Pacifico Agabin that the graft case should be dismissed for "insufficiency of evidence."

The graft case pertains to charges that Estrada pocketed P189.7 million in commissions in the purchase by the GSIS of P1.8 billion worth of Belle Corp. shares.

Desierto explained that the court did not categorically rule that the graft case was weak.

"What the court said was the Ombudsman's resolution on the graft case would be insufficient to establish probable cause. That's why the justices ordered us to present additional evidence to strengthen the case," he said.

The prosecution, however, did not submit more evidence since it had decided to withdraw the case as a "legal strategy" to strengthen the plunder case which carries the death penalty.

Desierto said the prosecution has strong evidence to pin Estrada in the graft case but they, with the consent of the justice department and the solicitor general, decided to withdraw five of the eight cases against Estrada to prevent his lawyers from raising the issue of double jeopardy.

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TOURISM Secretary Richard Gordon seals agreement with John Cogul of Barcelo Empresas for the transfer of its regional offices to Manila. ERNIE SARMIENTO

GORDON'S CONSOLATION

Investors make up for lack of tourists

BY N. BORDADORA

TOURISM Secretary Richard Gordon said yesterday revenues from tourism would dip in the next few months, but he is confident the country will recover in the aftermath of yet another kidnapping incident involving tourists.

Gordon said the expected dearth in tourist arrivals would be more than made up for after several months because investors in tourism look at things in the long-term and they expect the peace and order situation to turn around soon.

Gordon made the statements in the wake of the announcement by Barcelo Empresas, which operates the Barcelo Pearl Farm Resort, that despite everything it is moving its regional offices to Manila from Shanghai.

The Barcelo Pearl Farm in Davao was the first resort attacked by a bandit group last week in the latest round of terrorist assaults. Two resort workers were killed in that attack.

A few days later, bandits struck again, robbing over 40 passengers of a Basilan ferry. Last Sunday, in the most brazen attack yet, the group abducted 20 tourists from an exclusive Palawan resort and continue to hold them hostage.

John Cogul, chief executive officer for the Asia-Pacific region of Barcelo Empresas, the fifth largest tour operator in the world, said the transfer would be completed in August.

He told Gordon the relocation was a show of confidence in the Philippines which, despite the recent incidents at the Pearl Farm and the Dos Palmas resort in Palawan, still has plenty of tourism potential.

Gordon told Agence France Presse that he personally visited Palawan and Davao to meet with local tourism officials and resort owners and to look into strengthened security measures. A promotional blitz for resorts in the south will be launched this weekend, he said.

He said the Philippines will "get over" the bad publicity, citing other countries that had also been hit hard by terrorism.

He noted that foreign investors and tourists were not deterred by the sarin gas attack in Tokyo and the Muslim militants' bomb attacks in New York in the '90s.

Gordon said the Philippines needs to pour more money into tourism promotion and improve security and infrastructure to snag a larger number of tourist arrivals.

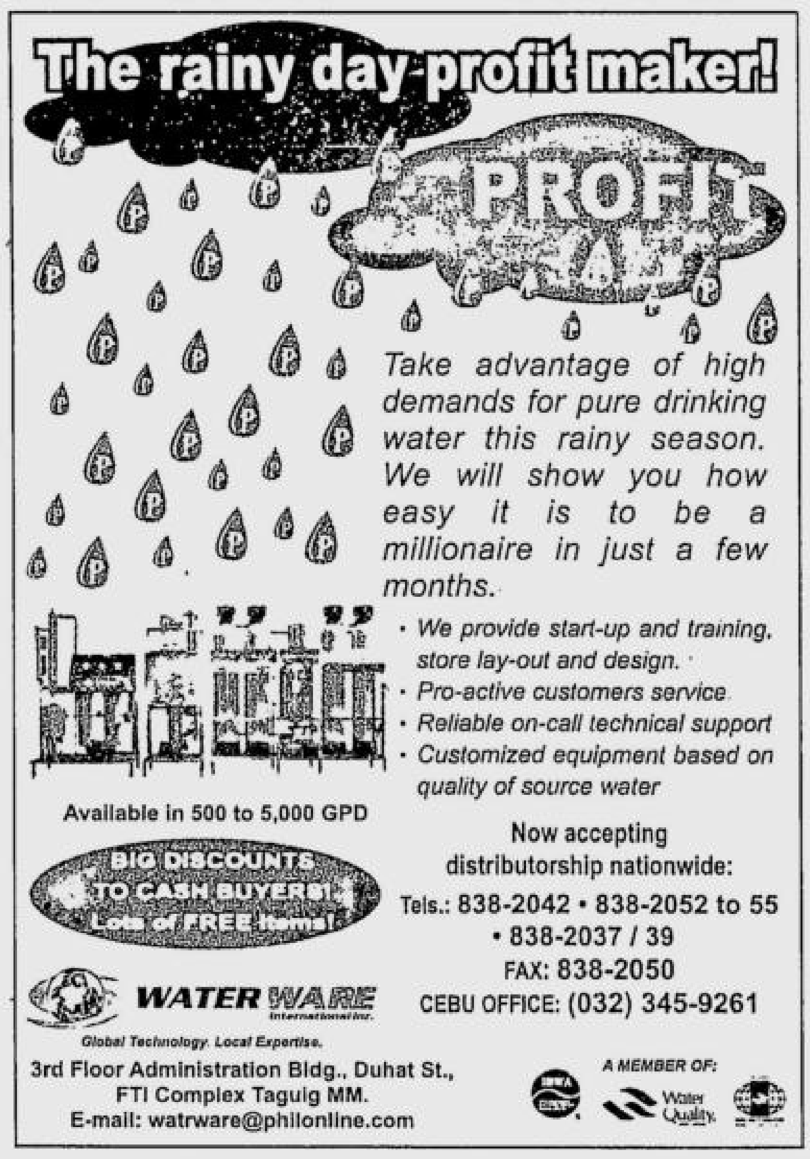
Government figures showed there were only 2.2 million visitors to the Philippines in 1999. In contrast, 8.7 million tourists visited Thailand and 7.9 million went to Malaysia. Singapore had 6.9 million visitors while Indonesia had 4.3 million.

Leo de Leon, country representative of Barcelo Empresas, said the company has complete confidence in the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo, especially after she announced that tourism would be a major priority of government.

"We also salute the dedication and loyalty of the Filipinos who died in the attack by the Abu Sayyaf on the Pearl Farm," De Leon said.

Gordon, meantime, asked foreign governments to stop issuing travel advisories against the Philippines, saying such pronouncements play right into the hands of the Abu Sayyaf.

"Do you really want to reward the terrorists by issuing these travel advisories? They punish the country unnecessarily and that is what the terrorists want," he said. *With an AFP report*



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Solons want 'pork' in exchange for extra budget

By J. L. Javellana

BUDGET Secretary Emilia Boncodin yesterday confirmed that some congressmen demanded the release of pork barrel funds promised them last year by the Estrada administration in return for the approval of this year's supplemental budget bill.

In a radio interview, Boncodin confirmed that the approval of the P10.9 billion supplemental budget was withheld last Wednesday because certain members of the House of Representatives wanted the release of the pork barrel first.

She said yesterday promised to be the "longest day" for Congress, which was hard-pressed to ratify the power reform and budget bills at the end of the four-day special session yesterday.

"What they were asking for is last year's releases, which have not been funded yet," Boncodin said.

Boncodin said the Macapagal administration would give what it can within the budget. Even then, she said the Congressional Development Fund—otherwise known as the pork barrel—now comes under a new name.

"First of all, we don't call it CDF anymore. It's PDS—priority development assistance fund," Boncodin said.

She said that all members of the House, regardless of party affiliations, would get the same amount of PDS, which goes to pet projects of the congressmen in their respective districts.

"That amount is uniform," she said.

Previously, each congressman was entitled to identify projects up to P12.5 million while each senator could identify projects for funding of P18 million.

The pork barrel, which Malacañang uses to get support for its legislative agenda, has been the source of corruption among unscrupulous politicians and contractors.

Boncodin said it was difficult to fulfill the commitments given by the previous administration to congressmen.

"We said this is a new administration," Boncodin said.

But she said it was also difficult to argue with congressmen because, having the power over the purse, they know exactly where the budget goes.

Boncodin expressed optimism, however, that the budget bill would be passed.

"I believe they will not object to the passage of the supplemental budget. None of them in fact expressed opposition to it. What they really want is clarification of the status of the promises made to them by the previous administration," Boncodin said.

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Jockeying for Senate, House leadership starts

By Juliet L. Javellana

JOCKEYING for the leadership of the House and the Senate in the incoming 12th Congress has begun.

Presidential political adviser Jose "Joey" Rufino said five administration-allied congressmen and two Senators are actively campaigning for the House speakership and the Senate presidency, respectively.

Rufino said, however, that Lakas party members and their allies have expressed confidence that President Macapagal-Arroyo would choose the best candidate for speaker.

"There are parties and blocs in Congress that have given her their proxies. Wherever she is going, they are going with her," Rufino said.

While Congress is a co-equal branch of government, Rufino said there was nothing wrong with the President expressing her preference to her party mates.

"That's the political reality. As one congressman said, in the end there's only one vote and that is the President's," Rufino said.

Rufino said leaders of the administration-allied LP, Reporma and Aksyon Demokratiko parties also expressed confidence in the President's choosing the Congress leadership.

Rufino said the President, Lakas' titular head, will be invited to the party caucus next month where the official candidates for speaker and Senate president will be chosen.

Rufino identified those aspiring for the leadership in the House as Representatives Jose de Venecia, Raul Gonzalez, Raul del Mar, Ricky Sandoval and Prospero Pichay.

Those eyeing the Senate presidency, he said, are Senators Rene Cayetano and Franklin Drilon.

All belong to Lakas except for Drilon who is with the LDP, which broke away from the opposition coalition. Drilon, however, is a former Senate president.

"There (have been) some informal meetings (where the speakership and the Senate presidency) were discussed. There will be a party caucus and it won't be long (before the official candidates are known)," Rufino said.

Rufino said Lakas holds the majority in the House with 90 members in the 250-person body.

He admitted that this early De Venecia, a former speaker and Lakas party chair, has the edge over the other relatively new Lakas leaders.

As for the Senate presidency, "may the best man win," Rufino said.

More jockeying for positions has also begun with opposition politicians making the traditional crossover to the ruling party after an election.

Yesterday two congressmen took their oaths as Lakas members in front of President Macapagal at Malacañang.

Rep. Jacinto Paras (Negros Oriental) and Rep. Eduardo Veloso (Leyte) were the first two of 17 congressmen expected to join Lakas in the coming weeks, Rufino said.

House OKs pay hike for gov't workers

GOVERNMENT workers can look forward to a 5 to 12 percent across-the-board salary increase after the House of Representatives approved a P10.9 billion supplemental budget and the Senate promised to pass it without amendment.

The congressmen approved yesterday on second and third reading the additional budget on the last day of the special session.

The Senate ran out of time for the measure but it promised to adopt it without amendments during the regular session next week.

Sen. John Osmeña, chair of the Senate committee on finance, said the senators don't want to be perceived as the government body that sat on the passage of the measure giving salary increase to civil servants, police and military personnel.

"We are just awaiting the House to transmit to us their approved supplemental budget before we adopt it without amendments," he told Senate reporters last night.

Of the P10.9 billion supplemental budget, P3.8 billion would go to salary adjustment fund; P4.15 billion for miscellaneous personnel benefits fund; P1.45 billion for the Philippine National Police; P500 million for the Department of National Defense; and P1 billion for Foreign Assisted Projects.

Approving the bill without amendments would spare the appropriations measure the usual bicameral conference committee meetings where conflicting provisions are reconciled by the Senate and House panels.

However, it also means that the increases would not be retroactive as earlier announced by the Senate, because the Senate will merely be adopting the same appropriations bill from the House.

A big chunk of the bill has been earmarked for the 5-percent increase in salaries of government workers, and 12.5 percent increase in salaries of the members of the Armed Forces and Philippine National Police.

"We in Congress are truly concerned about the economic plight of our workers. We approved the maximum increase that government resources can allow without jeopardizing other vital programs," Speaker Feliciano Belmonte declared as he lauded the leaders and members of the House for answering the call of duty.

Also authorized under House Bill 12931, principally authored by House Appropriations chair Florencio Abad (LP, Batanes), is a similar grant of salary increase for government owned and controlled corporations (GOCCs) and local government units, "subject to availability of funds."

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Miriam is leaving, finds RP suffocating

By Dona Pazzibugan

APART from being populated by "lower life forms," the Philippines is "suffocating."

This according to Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago who said Wednesday she is thinking of leaving the country should she fail to get reelected, because she finds Third World countries like the Philippines "suffocating."

Santiago said she intends to "either teach or study in Cambridge" in England as soon as she finishes writing the four law books she is working on simultaneously.

She said she was scheduled to leave for Cambridge on June 4, but she is still reading "two and a half or three dozen" law books and working on the four books.

"I may have to stay to finish them for six months. So (for) six months I'll stay. But definitely after the books are finished I'll leave," she told newsmen the other day.

"It's very suffocating in the Third World, the way we speak, the way we think, the way we act. I just want to go to another world," she said.

Santiago was reacting to a question about her plans should she lose her Senate seat.

One of ousted President Joseph Estrada's staunchest defenders in the last Congress, Santiago is in 15th place in the latest official election count, two rungs from the lowest place winner.

The loquacious senator has always harped about her academic achievements, taking pride in having earned her law degree at the University of the Philippines.

At campaign rallies, emcees never fail to point out that Santiago went to Harvard, Oxford and Cambridge, giving the impression that the senator is an alumna of those prestigious universities.

In fact, Santiago took only short summer courses at those institutions.

According to her website, Santiago attended a summer program of instruction for lawyers at Harvard in 1996, a summer program in law at Oxford in 1997, and was a visiting fellow at the Lauterpacht Research Center for International Law at Cambridge in 1999.

In a television interview last February, Santiago belittled the criticism against her, saying her detractors did not graduate from UP or set foot in Harvard, Oxford or Cambridge like she did.

When asked how she felt about the public's reaction to her "no" vote to the opening of a crucial piece of evidence in the impeachment trial of Estrada, Santiago had said:

"Why should I be bothered by these Filipinos who are raising these protests against me? These same Filipinos who have not even stepped (sic) foot on (sic) Harvard or Oxford. I would be bothered if my professor in Cambridge were to take exception to my legal interpretation of a judicial matter. But to be bothered by a Filipino who may not even know that a Harvard exists, who can't even pass the UP entrance test, who wouldn't even understand discussions of such a high level even if they tried, why should I be bothered? I have no time to listen to this species of lower life forms."

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(Turn to page 28 & 29 of Metro Section)

Widow lists 30 suspects in radio man's slay

ZAMBOANGA CITY—At least 30 names have been included in the list of "probable suspects" in the killing of radio commentator Candelario Cayona here Wednesday.

Supt. Jaime Ortega, Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) chief here, said Cayona's wife, Aiza, had listed 30 names as "probable" suspects in the killing.

The list includes politicians and government officials, including customs, police and education officials.

Ortega said the "probable suspects" were taken from Cayona's radio program files.

"These people were frequently criticized by Cayona in his program," Ortega added.

But he said one of the gunmen had already been identified.

"We were able to get the identity of this suspect from our star witness who claimed he saw the whole incident," he said.

Cayona, 37, a commentator at the dxLL Radyo Ukay, was on his Honda Dream motorcycle on his way to work when shot early Wednesday morning.

Chief Supt. Simeon Dizon, Western Mindanao police chief, yesterday said a special body had been created to concentrate on the investigation of the killing.

Dizon said the new task force is composed of different department units of the Philippine National Police but the leading agency would be the CIDG. ***Julie Alipala-Inot, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

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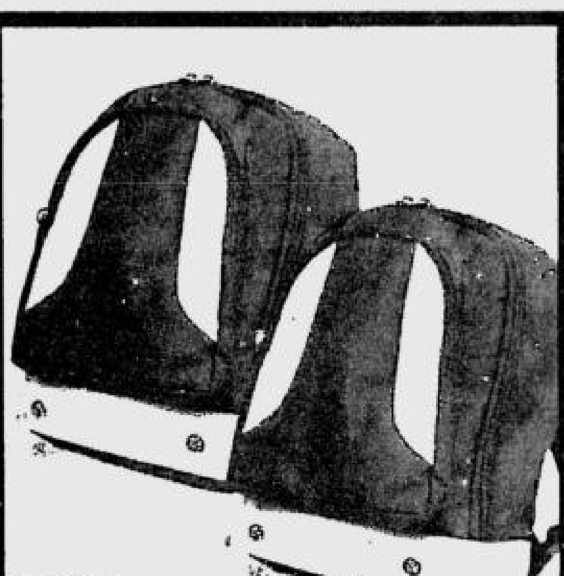
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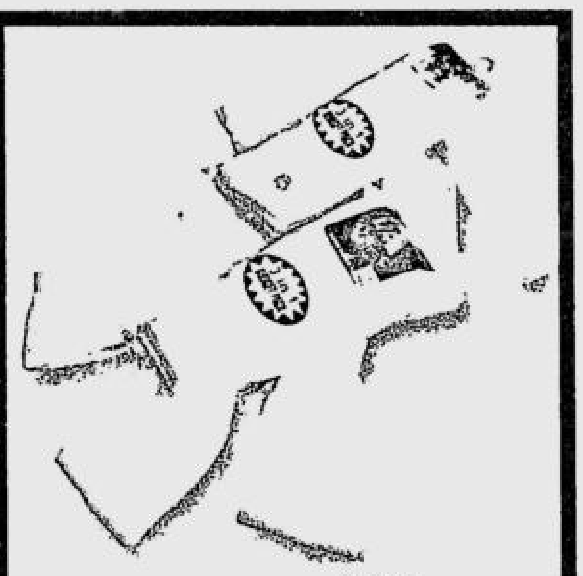
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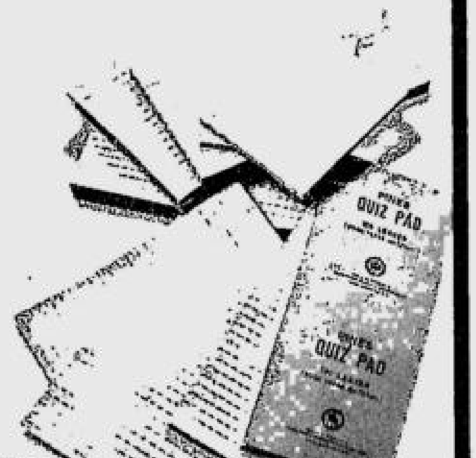
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(From page A1)

dent Joseph Estrada who was impeached on corruption charges.

The National Statistics Coordination Board (NSCB) reported that the industry sector—which consists of mining and quarrying, manufacturing, construction and electricity, gas and water—recorded a marginal growth of 0.1 percent, down from the 4.4-percent expansion in the same period last year.

"Utilities was the only subsector to pick up speed, accelerating from 4.5 percent to 6.2 percent. Manufacturing continued to slow down as it posted 2.4-percent growth for the first quarter, down from 6 percent a year earlier," NSCB secretary general Romulo Virola said.

Electronic products and semiconductors, formerly the backbone of the export sector, fell sharply in the first quarter of the year. Japan and the United States are the main destinations of such exports.

Construction and mining and quarrying pulled down overall industry growth by posting double-digit declines.

But services expanded by 4.5 percent compared with 4 percent in the same period last year while growth for the combined agriculture, fishery and forestry sector improved more than fivefold to 2.3 percent from 0.4 percent.

Campaign materials

"Aggregate services were the biggest contributor to GDP growth, accounting for 2 percentage points of the 2.5-percent growth. Boosted by brisk sales of campaign materials for the May 14 elections, the wholesale and retail trade subsector led all contributions to GDP growth for the first quarter as it grew by 5.6 percent," Virola said.

Ivy Cayayan, GK Goh Securities head of research, said that the first quarter figures were disappointing as the industry sector performed way below expectations.

He said the country might fall into a "technical recession."

"We were expecting 2.5 percent to 3 percent GDP growth for the period but the industry sector was not able to bring in the expected growth," she said.

Technical recession

"But on a quarter-to-quarter basis, the GDP shrunk 2 percent. If you see two consecutive quarters of that, it's what you call a technical recession. The last time this happened in the Philippines was in the first and second quarters of 1998," Cayayan said.

Cayayan said that as the industry sector was not likely to rebound next quarter, the Philippines would likely see a technical recession.

"We are looking at downgrading our projection to 2-percent to 2.5-percent GDP growth, even assuming that the agriculture and services sector would remain strong," she said.

Llanto said that while the weak first quarter economic performance did not come as a surprise, it confirmed the need for the government to scale down its full-year macroeconomic targets.

He said the country's full-year gross domestic product would likely hit only 3.8 percent, the lower end of the government target for 2001.

"We are now ruling out the high end of the official target of 4.3 percent," Llanto said.

He said Neda would convene on June 6 the inter-agency Development Budget Coordination Committee to study the revisions to the government's targets for the year.

Lower targets

The economic team of the Macapagal administration is expected to downscale its GDP growth target anew, this time to 2.7 percent from an already revised target of 3.8 percent.

The government had originally targeted a GDP growth of 3.8 percent to 4.3 percent. GNP growth was set at 0.2-percentage point higher than the GDP growth.

The GDP target was downscaled to 3.8 percent because export growth was expected to drop to 4 percent this year from 8.7 percent last year following a slowdown in the US and Japan economies.

Both are major trading partners of the Philippines.

"The likely scenario is to change the target range to 2.7 percent to 3.8 percent which means that we are already ruling out the higher end of the original target," an official of the Department of Finance said.

A slower growth target also means changes in revenue collection targets.

The finance official said that any adjustment in revenue targets would have to be offset by tighter spending.

Financial analysts foresee the GDP growing this year at only 2 percent to 2.5 percent compared with the 3.9 percent in 2000.

Foreign investment banks

A foreign investment bank, HSBC, had projected that the GDP would grow by only 1.7 percent while Goldman Sachs had expected a 2-percent growth.

Their studies were conducted before the government's announcement of a slow economic growth in the first quarter.

Llanto said Neda expected growth from the domestic front rather than the external market. One source of growth is agriculture, which is expected to do well as there are no signs that the El Niño weather phenomenon would return as earlier predicted.

He said the kidnapping of 20 American and Filipino hostages from a Philippine resort by local Muslim guerrillas on Sunday would have a negative effect but would not be a major problem for the economy.

The long-awaited passage of a power reform bill, now pending in Congress, would also give a lift to the economy, he said.

Passage of the bill, which would privatize a debt-ridden power utility, will help bring down the budget deficit, reassure foreign creditors and help bring in foreign investors, according to Llanto.

With a report from AFP

Power reform bill close to becoming law

By Christine Avendaño

CONGRESS is one step away from enacting a law that would pave the way for the restructuring of the electric power industry, which in turn would hopefully translate to lower power rates for consumers.

This after the four-day special session of Congress ended yesterday with the Senate and House successfully consolidating their respective versions of the power reform bill.

At press time last night, the House moved to ratify the measure while the Senate chose to deliberate and ratify it on Monday, the start of the last four days of the 11th Congress' regular session.

Sen. John Osmena, chair of the Senate bicameral conference committee, said this was in order to give in to the request of Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile who wanted to "put his views (on the bill) on record."

Enrile was the only one of the seven-member Senate bicameral committee panel who did not sign the reconciled version last night.

Seventeen of the 19 members of the House bicameral conference committee led by its chair, Rep. Melvin Eballe, signed the reconciled version. The two who did not sign were Representatives Loretta Rosales and Enrique Garcia.

Seven of the congressmen went to the Senate for the bicameral conference meeting but reporters only saw six of them—Representatives Eballe, Julius Ledesma, Prospero Pichay, Edward Veloso, Arnulfo Fuentebella and Jacinto Paras, during the signing of the report.

And as the Senate moved to adjourn the special session, Enrile took the floor to protest that he had not been notified of the Senate-House bicameral conference committee meeting.

"I think the bill was not properly handled in the Senate-House bicameral conference committee," Enrile said as he noticed the lack of minutes of the meeting and the bicameral conference committee report itself.

The senator said he will raise these issues on Monday.

On the floor, Sen. Sergio Osmeña III explained to Enrile that the two panels did some "editorial changes" on their versions. He also said that some congressmen in the panel called him up to tell them they were in Malacañang and would be coming over to the Senate.

In the news briefing after the signing of the reconciled version, Osmeña and Eballe each thanked their respective panels for approving the "historic measure."

"We would like to thank President for her assistance and her effort in getting this bill approved," Osmeña said. "The President can be very proud of having achieved what two presidents before her (former Presidents) Fidel Ramos and Joseph Estrada could not—approval of this historic measure."

The meeting of the Senate and House panels came after the Senate bicameral conference committee was able to rush its final draft.

DAR to give Arroyo lands to farmers

By Cynthia D. Balana

THE DEPARTMENT of Agrarian Reform is set to distribute some 400 hectares of agricultural lands in Negros Occidential owned by the family of President Macapagal-Arroyo's husband. The distribution is in time for the 13th anniversary of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) of the government on June 10.

In a press conference, Agrarian Reform Secretary Hernani Braganza said the department was rushing the identification of lands and their potential beneficiaries. The lands were surrendered recently by the President for land reform coverage.

Based on DAR records, First Gentleman Mike Arroyo and his family owned six haciendas in the province's four towns—Binalbagan, La Castellana, Hinigaran and Isabela.

Braganza did not identify the location of these lands but reports said that the Arroyo property offered for CARP coverage was in Binalbagan and Isabela towns.

On May 4, the President announced in Malacañang that she would give away to the farmers the vast sugarland owned by her spouse and his family in Negros Occidental to make the CARP a success.

She said that they also wanted to serve as living examples of those who are willing to give away their own.

The President had also promised to place under CARP coverage her property in Iligan.

Records showed that only the 350-hectare Hacienda Camangcamang in Isabela owned by Mr. Arroyo's father, Ignacio, had been distributed to 300 of the 437 farmer-beneficiaries in 1997.

Initially, about 40 to 80 farmers were expected to benefit from the distribution program.

Braganza said that DAR was also considering an additional 1,000 hectares of land also owned by the President's family to be placed under the CARP coverage.

At the same time, Braganza assured the striking farmer-beneficiaries of land reform in three haciendas in Negros Occidental that they will get their lands as promised.

He explained their installation were just deferred for safety reasons as the situation became "volatile" when a team of DAR officials who came there recently were met with strong resistance by owners of the lands.

"I deemed it judicious for us to move the installation to a later date to prevent bloodshed," Braganza said.

"It was not for farmers against the government or the law enforcers. In some instances, farmers were fighting farmers," he added.

The lands covered were the 32-hectare Hacienda Agueda and the 14-hectare Hacienda Espinos in Lalagsan, La Castellana, and the 10-hectare Hacienda Fanny in Talaptap, also in La Castellana.

Braganza said that the incidents in Negros has taught the managements of these haciendas to be extra careful with the list of beneficiaries.

He said it was not true that the DAR officials chickened out at the sight of armed men in the haciendas, contrary to the charge of the farmer-beneficiaries who called for Braganza's ouster as DAR secretary.

"The farmers now at our office had titles but no lands to speak of for almost 10 years. All that we ask is for them to give us a few more days to correct this," Braganza said.

DOH launches renewed drive against smoking

By Norman Bordadora

HEALTH Secretary Manuel Dayrit yesterday said the Department of Health would start organizing a renewed campaign against tobacco and called on various people's organization to join in the DOH efforts against smoking.

This developed as the World Health Organization led the celebration of World No-Tobacco Day yesterday and revealed that more than 1.2 billion non-smokers in the Western Pacific stand to be saved from smoking-related deaths if the air is cleared of tobacco smoke.

"At this point, we can no longer be complacent about tobacco control but rather we should all act in concert now and consolidate our strength as a unified lobby group," Dayrit said at the observance of World No-Tobacco Day at the Museo Pambata in Manila.

"Foremost of our objectives is to arm the defenseless members of our society, especially the children, the poor and the marginalized, against the tobacco epidemic. It is not just a health issue but is also a social empowerment movement," he added.

Dayrit said the move against tobacco distribution and use should have support among civil society, the academe, the Church and other religious groups, business organizations and various mass-based organizations.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

The public is hereby notified that the **Philippine Stock Exchange** (PSE) has approved the application of **UOB Securities (Philippines), Inc.** (UOBSP) for voluntary suspension of trading operations.

Accordingly, UOBSP has endorsed and forwarded full custody of all its account to its designated broker, **Abacus Securities Corporation** to handle the distribution of shares to their beneficial owners.

Thus, effective June 16, 2001, kindly course all your concerns and queries to:

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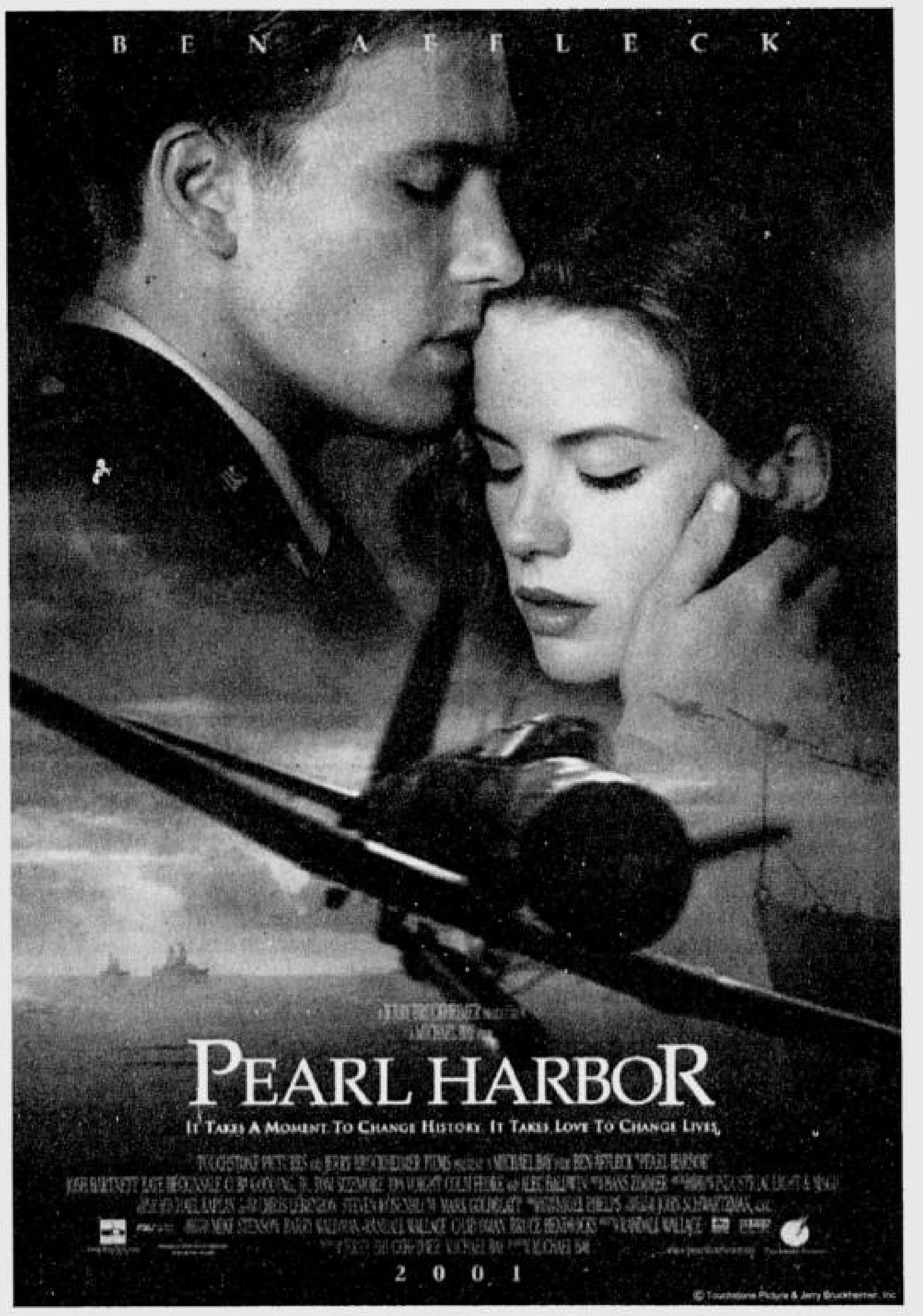
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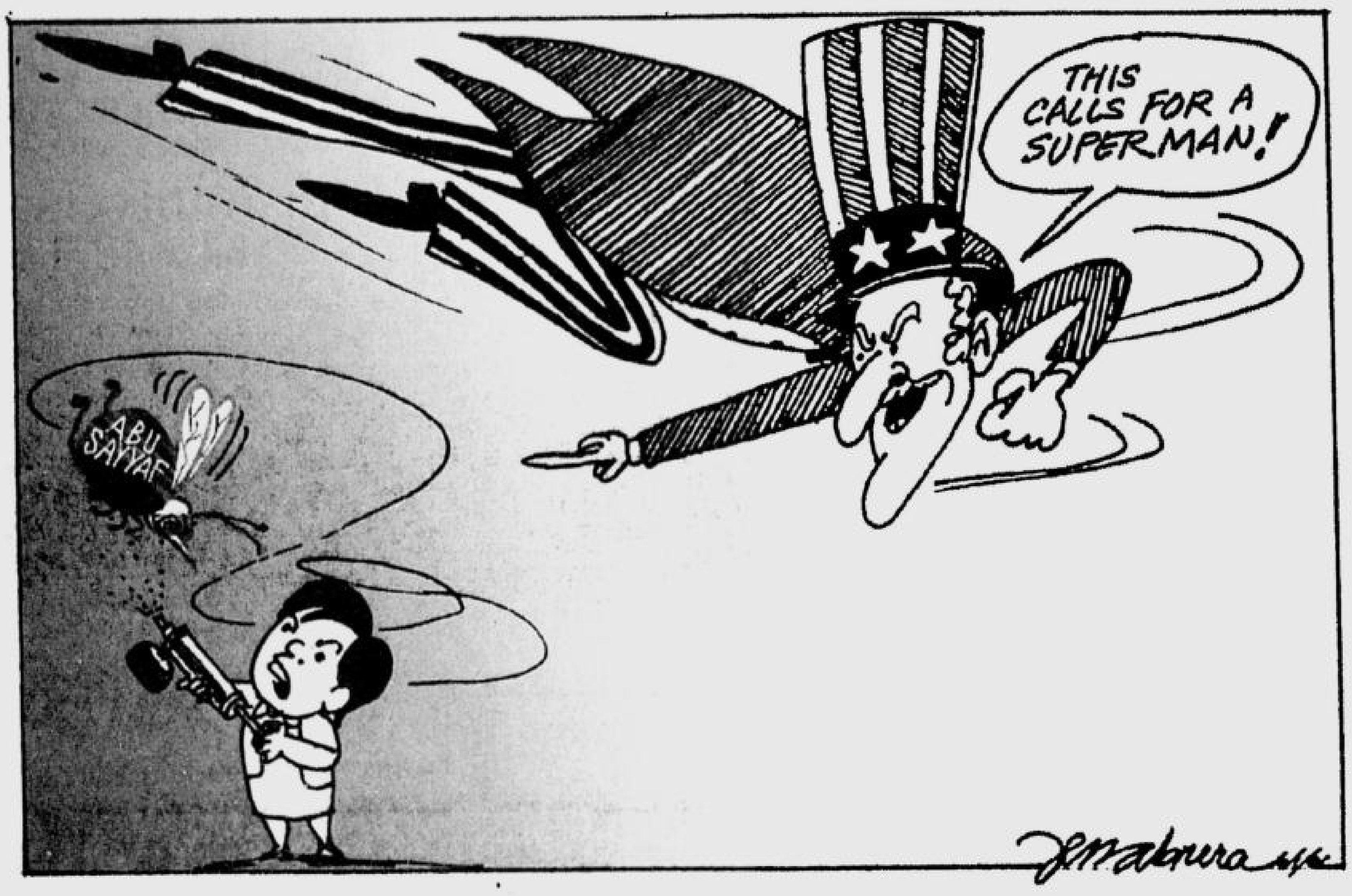
THIS CALLS FOR A SUPERMAN!
ABU SAYYAF

True crime

EDITORIAL

THERE is a species of terrorism which cannot be solved by a news blackout. On the contrary, the government and the citizenry can only end it with the help of unrelenting media attention.

We refer to the terrorism of otherwise duty-bound policemen who flout their own rules of engagement and end up killing the innocent.

Does this sound too harsh? Let us put it this way. If you see a group of armed men in civilian clothing on the street, motioning you to stop, would you think they are agents of the law? It would be hard to tell, but this much is clear. Such a sight sows terror in the heart of the public.

For very good reasons since the consequences can be fatal. On May 17, hotel executive Fernando Lozada saw such a group flag down his family car. Terrified he was being stopped by criminals, Lozada sped away. The unknown persons gave chase, fired on his car and after finally blocking it, shot it up some more. They ended up killing Lozada, injuring his daughter Clarissa and fatally wounding Clarissa's friend, Marian Uson (she died three days later).

The men and women who shot them turned out to be operatives of the Philippine National Police Intelligence Group, who had set up a blockade at the intersection of Del Monte and Araneta Avenues in Quezon City in an attempt to catch a kidnap gang. They mistook Lozada's car for the kidnapper's escape vehicle, and opened fire.

The tragedy would not have happened if these intelligence operatives had followed the prescribed rules of engagement. The lack of unmistakable identification, the lack of a warning or disabling shot, the lack of a proper determination of the occupants of the car, the lack of any sense of proportionate response—these are damning and fatal mistakes. As the lone survivor, 17-year-old Clarissa, told a news conference last Wednesday, the agents smashed the window on the driver's side of the car and were surprised to find two young women inside. The surprise came too late, because they had already pumped the car full of lead, even in the absence of any return fire or hostile act.

The list of victims killed by policemen who do not follow the appropriate rules of engagement is long, and includes even infants and children. Why does the list keep getting longer?

Because crime does not harden criminals alone. The policemen who shot at Lozada's car, simply because it sped away instead of stopping, had grown callous enough to think that proper determination of possible targets was optional, a procedure a tough cop can do away with.

The real tragedy here is the vigilante mind-set of otherwise dutiful police officers. This police mentality short-circuits the administration of justice, because policemen like these have no trouble crossing the line from law enforcer to executioner.

Last Tuesday, another suspect in the kidnap-slaying of public relations man Bubby Dacer and his driver Emmanuel Corbito surrendered to the PNP. SPO3 Ruperto Nemeno, then a member of the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force, admitted that he was one of those who abducted the two victims, but said he was "made to believe" he was taking part in an anti-kidnap operation. He said he did not participate in the killings, but the fact that the victims were brought to some godforsaken place in Cavite apparently did not trouble him.

There's the rub. Extra-judicial actions like the killing of a drug lord in police custody can help clean up the streets, from the police point of view, but it can also end up claiming innocent lives.

Police officers may be justifiably frustrated by the slow and uneven pace of justice as administered by the country's fiscals and judges, but taking the law into their own hands is not public service. It is vigilante terrorism.

Driven by the moral imperatives underpinning Edsa II, the new administration must do all it can to eliminate this kind of police mentality. But much of the responsibility lies with the men and women of the PNP themselves. And as Wednesday's arrest of the rap artist Francis Magalona proves, it is not an impossible task.

PO3 James Bustinera and PO1 Miguel Cordero gave chase to the pot-smoking Magalona when he tried to flee. Instead of shooting his car indiscriminately, the policemen shot one of the tires. That stopped him. The suspect was not dead; he was simply dead on his tracks.

Manansala mural at NPC to be auctioned?

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

THIS is a horror story—in the National Press Club. The ghosts of years of negligence, irresponsibility, wantonness and indifference have come back to haunt the NPC.

The NPC charter will expire next year; it owes tens of millions of pesos in loans, real estate taxes, power, water and phone bills and unpaid wages and benefits for its employees. But that is not the reason the NPC is in deep s—t. The sheriff is scheduled to sell at public auction pieces of property and other assets of the NPC to pay for a P9-million judgment by the National Labor Relations Commission in favor of the NPC Employees Union for unpaid wages, allowances, bonuses, Social Security System premiums, etc. Airconditioners, furniture, the piano, plates and cutlery, kitchen utensils, computers, its stock of liquor—everything that is not nailed down—will be sold.

Er, correction: including objects that are nailed down. The huge mural by National Artist Vicente Manansala nailed to the dining room wall is also planned to be sold. Because the NPC is bankrupt, the mural, a beautiful work of art, is the only object of value that can be sold for a big sum, easily worth tens of millions of pesos. The building is hocked to the Government Service Insurance System and the lot, donated by the national government, will be returned to it when it is no longer used by the NPC. So all covetous eyes are on that Manansala mural.

But it won't be that simple. That mural is a donation of the Lopez family which also owns Meralco, ABS-CBN, Benpress Holdings, Maynilad, Lopez Foundation and so many other companies. A condition of the donation, as I heard it, is that the mural would be returned to the Lopez family once it is removed from the NPC premises.

I was a newcomer in the staff of The Manila Chronicle in Intramuros when the NPC building was being constructed on its present site, a spitting distance from the Chronicle offices. Included in the plan was a huge mural in the dining room and the planners solicited the financial help of the Lopez patriarch, Don Eugenio Lopez Sr., then owner of the Chronicle. As I understood from talk in the newsroom, Chronicle columnist I.P. Soliongco tapped his friend Vicente Manansala for the mural and Don Eugenio paid for his services, with the stipulation that if the NPC building is torn down, remodeled and the mural is removed from the wall, it would go to the Lopez Museum which, at that time, he was already planning.

Which means, as I see it, that the mural cannot be sold without the imprimatur of the Lopez family.

Come to think of it, that valuable piece of art belongs to a museum where it can be better cared for. It was painted on the rough side of lawanit boards cut to fit a wall of the dining room, with a door, air-conditioning outlets and a food serving window cut into it. The mural is Manansala's comment on the press at that time. He showed newspaper people in the clutches of politicians while the *barong-barong* of the poor can be seen in the distance.

The mural is now in a sad state. Portions of it are damaged, scratched by tables and chairs pushed against the wall. It is dirty with soot and kitchen grease.

This is not the first time that the Manansala mural has been put in jeopardy. Two fires almost burned it down. During martial law, the dining room was divided into office spaces. Walls were put up and nails driven into the mural. When the offices were removed and the dining room was restored, the mural was a sorry sight. Holes from nails pockmarked it.

When I became NPC president, I had the mural restored. I hired art restorer Susano Gonzales to clean it of the soot from the fire. He was able to remove some of the soot but not enough to restore it. So I asked Manansala himself to look at it.

Manansala decided to retouch the mural. He recruited his artist-friends to help him, among them Malang, Cris Cruz, Gig de Pio, Ephraim Samson and, if I remember right, now National Artist Ang Kiukok. (I may have missed others who also helped.)

Manansala did not charge the NPC for his services but he asked me to give honorariums to his assistants.

The restored mural did not last very long in its pristine splendor. Another fire threatened it. Soot again dirtied it and a cleanup was not able to remove all of it. By this time, Manansala was dead and he could not retouch it anymore. That is now the sorry state of the mural.

Still it remains a national treasure, a masterpiece of a National Artist. Shouldn't the National Museum, the National Historical Commission, or the National Commission on Culture and the Arts have a right to it? Can it be sold like a discarded furniture to pay off a debt? Doesn't it deserve better treatment?

That mural is not only a work of art; it is also a part of history.

Mummy week

WINDMILLS

Jerry Barican

IT is "Mummy Week" on Discovery Channel while crowds are queuing up to see the campy movie "The Mummy Returns." Those who are enamored of esoterica may have noticed the story told on the television series concerning a certain mummy that was sent to the British Museum. The tale was abbreviated into two or three sentences but the full story is more delicious. After many months of crises, arguments and campaigns here at home, it is not a bad idea to unwind with creepy tales. If you are interested in more, go to the Internet. The tale is also told by Duane Valentry in "The Ocean Almanac," Robert Hendrickson (Doubleday and Co., New York, 1984). Have fun!

The tale is about the mummy of Princess Amen-Ra, who, it is claimed, had lived a life of beauty and cruelty 1,500 years before the Christian era. It is said that she had either sold as slaves or caused the death by impalement of more than 100 men. The princess was stabbed by a spurned lover and died a violent death, and her evil, it is believed, lived on as a curse.

In 1895, four Englishmen found the mummy case of Princess Amen-Ra while digging along the banks of the Nile. They cast lots for the find, with the winner claiming the rare treasure. That night, the winner wandered into the desert for a stroll, and was never seen again.

Back at the hotel where the mummy case lay in wait, one of his companions figured in a brawl and was shot, losing his arm to amputation.

Stunned by their bad luck, the remaining two men returned to England with the mummy. One of them soon lost all his fortune, and the other lost his health and job, and became a beggar.

The mummy, the story goes on, ended up with a London merchant, who soon saw three family members injured in an accident, and his house in flames. Attributing the spell of bad luck to the purchase, he donated the encased mummy to the British Museum, to the short-lived delight of its officials.

As the mummy was being transported to the museum, the wagon bearing it overturned, crushing a man in the process. Then, as two workers carried the case up, one fell off the museum stairs and broke a leg. The other who carried the case upstairs alone died two days later.

Installed in the Egyptian Room of the museum, the mummy of Princess Amen-Ra refused to rest. Priceless relics on display in the room were mysteriously hurled about, causing the breakage of most of these. Eerie wailing and strange sounds came from the mummy case. One night, a terrified museum guard narrated to a fellow worker that something sprang at him and attempted to throw him from the top of the 50-foot delivery chute. The museum worker only laughed at him and proceeded to flick his duster over the mummy case, scoffing at and taunting Princess Amen-Ra. His young child fell ill and died two days later.

At this point, the museum officials decided to have the relic transferred to the basement if they still hoped to keep a staff. But no one wanted to do the job and they had to hire outside hands at twice the pay for the work involved. One of the hired workers became seriously ill, and the official who supervised the transfer was found slumped over his desk, dead, a few days later.

As the legend of Princess Amen-Ra grew, the story goes on, her mummy remained in the shadows of the musty basement. One day, a photographer went down the museum basement to photograph the coffin. Upon developing the film, he made a horrifying discovery. Instead of the death mask on the coffin, what appeared on his film was an incredibly awful, yet human, face. The photographer rushed to his room and shot himself.

A private collector who learned of the unwanted treasure became interested, disregarding its tale of tragedy. He had in his collection many Egyptian relics, none of which had caused him any trouble. He insisted that the curses inscribed on the coffins were meant to scare tomb thieves since Egyptian royalty believed that if their bodies or coffins were desecrated, they would not enjoy life in the hereafter.

But not long after he acquired the mummy, the collector's troubles began. Illnesses, financial woes and losses hounded him in succession.

The relic, on the prodding of his family, was moved to the attic. A renowned Russian medium, Madame Helena Blavatsky, visited the collector's home one evening and as she entered the front door, she turned ashen.

"There is a horribly evil spirit here!" the medium cried.

The collector took her to the attic where the coffin lay, and implored her to exorcise the evil spirit, but she shook her head saying: "Evil is evil forever! It cannot be done. I implore you to get rid of this evil thing as soon as possible."

The collector was not completely convinced and kept the treasure until one day, his wife went to the attic to store some articles. A figure suddenly appeared to rise from the coffin and glided over the floor, frightening the woman out of her wits. She had, apparently, seen the same apparition that the museum guard had seen.

The collector decided to offer the artifact to the British government as a gift, but its history of tragedy seemed to have preceded it. No one wanted to have anything to do with it.

The story goes on to say that a visiting American archaeologist heard about the remarkable treasure and decided to acquire it for an American museum, dismissing its evil reputation as purely coincidence. He then arranged for the transport of the mummy case bearing Princess Amen-Ra's remains by steamship to New York City.

And so, on April 14, 1912, Princess Amen-Ra was quietly loaded in the hold of a great ocean liner, her name freshly emblazoned on her hull: Titanic.

Gloria's lost (political) adolescence

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

THE PRESIDENCY of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is being hardened in the crucible of a succession of crises and demands for economic reforms seldom experienced by any other president since Manuel L. Quezon.

Four months into her presidency, Ms Macapagal has already surmounted a rebellion of the poor manipulated by counterfeit pro-*masa* leaders, a legal challenge to her legitimacy by deposed President Joseph Estrada and his corps of clueless lawyers, and a setback in her first reform initiative in pressing a lame-duck Congress to pass the Omnibus Power Bill.

The failure of the power bill to clear the bicameral conference committee—the stage where usually loose ends of House and Senate versions of the bill are hammered out—came amid the more nasty rebellion from the Abu Sayyaf expressed in the terroristic abduction of 21 hostages from the Dos Palmas Beach Resort in Palawan.

No Filipino president has been assaulted by a similar wave of challenges in such a short a time, and these tests will show whether or not Ms Macapagal has the nerves of steel and the will to overcome them. The Abu Sayyaf kidnapping sent tourism, at best an anemic industry, to its knees and has knocked back efforts to revive the economy that has been bouncing from one crisis to the next since the 1997 Asian financial meltdown.

So far, the President has taken these blows in the chin. She has responded to rebellions with tough ripostes. She has dispersed the rebellion with "maximum tolerance" although some would say the Armed Forces and the Philippine National Police should have been tougher and that she should have rounded up those demagogues who agitated the mobs to storm the Palace in the midst of the attack.

Instead of succumbing to rebellion and terrorist menaces, she has not hesitated to use the instruments of state power to crush them and defend the integrity of the Philippine state. The Philippine presidency is acknowledged to be one of the world's most powerful presidencies, which are constrained in the exercise of power by their democratic framework. The issue facing President Macapagal is how much space she has in dealing with these challenges while staying within the democratic rules. I believe that she has not pushed the limits of these powers.

President Corazon Aquino was assailed by seven coup attempts, the last of which in December 1989 nearly toppled her government, but during her first year after taking power in February 1986, Ms Aquino presided over a revolutionary government exercising emergency powers.

President Macapagal has no such weapons in her arsenal. She has therefore been forced to be pragmatic, conceding to the inordinate demands of Estrada for extraordinary privileges on his detention in order to calm restiveness among the benighted poor he has betrayed. She realizes that leadership is about compromise, about reducing exposure to threats from many fronts, and about when to do battle.

The crises have forced her to make crucial decisions with but little time for contemplation. To use a metaphor, her crises in the presidency during the past four months have forced her to lose her political adolescence and to leap into adulthood.

After her setback on the power bill, Ms Macapagal can still try again to have it passed during the regular session of the 11th Congress after ironing out the kinks that appeared in the last special session, and apply the weight of the presidency for the passage of the legislation. Her father, President Diosdado Macapagal, working with a hostile opposition-controlled Congress, called the legislature seven times to a special session to push through his land reform act. If the power bill goes to the 12th Congress, it is likely to be riddled with new amendments from new members of Congress eager to have a piece of the cake.

Despite the constraints on the presidency in the system of checks and balances, the President sits on a reservoir of tradition and presidential power which she can tap to defend the state, stabilize her administration and push reform initiatives. I cite the valedictory of Claro M. Recto, president of the 1935 Constitutional Convention on the powers and mystique of the presidency. He said:

"During the debate on Executive Power it was the almost unanimous opinion that we have invested the Executive with rather extraordinary prerogatives. There is much truth in this assertion. But it is because we cannot be insensible to the events that are transpiring around...we have seen how dictatorships...have served as the last refuge of peoples when their parliaments fail and they are already powerless to save themselves from misgovernment and chaos.

"Learning our lessons from this truth and history, and determined to spare our people the evils of dictatorship and anarchy, we have thought it prudent to establish an executive power, which, subject to the fiscalization of the Assembly, and of public opinion, will not only know how to govern, but will actually govern with a firm and steady hand, unembarrassed by vexatious interference by other departments, or by holy alliances with this and that social group. Thus, possessed with the necessary gifts of honesty and competence, this Executive will be able to give his people an orderly and progressive government, without need of usurping or abdicating powers, and cunning subterfuge will not avail to extenuate his failure before the bar of public opinion."

The 1935, the 1973 and the 1987 Constitutions incorporated and implicitly recognized the latent authoritarian tendencies of Filipino society. The caudillo, Manuel Quezon, drew inspiration from these tradition and tendencies. Quezon incarnated the activist presidency envisaged by the Constitution. In the exercise of his agenda-setting powers, he was the source of 98 percent of laws enacted by the Commonwealth government.

President Macapagal is fortified by an armory of powers and strongman tradition of the presidency. She has only scratched the surface of these powers. In the defense of her administration and of her capacity to mount reform initiatives, she has weapons. She should not hesitate to use them.

Edsa's Frankenstein monster

HAVE we created a monster that is now destroying us? Was People Power I our Frankenstein that is now devouring us?

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is being buffeted by pressure from all directions. Competing causes and concerns converge in a cauldron of clamor coming from all corners of the country. How will she fare amid the storm?

COMMENTARY

Leandro V. Coronel

At this writing, pressure comes from Edsa II confreres who want no quarters given to Joseph Estrada as the ex-president awaits arraignment and trial. These disparate groups are against giving Erap what they call "creature comforts." In short, they want to see Erap suffer like a common criminal.

They've trooped to Malacañang to threaten the President with another people power revolution if she gave Erap some type of house-arrest privilege. At the first hint by Ms Macapagal that she wouldn't object to house arrest for Erap, those groups rose vehemently to object.

Did they scare Ms Macapagal? According to Sen. Blas Ople, the President "scares easily" because she stopped construction of a house for Estrada. And she received the protesting groups to hear their gripe.

Ms Macapagal is caught in a tug of war between competing forces in our politicized and polarized society. This pressure cannot but affect how she governs, how she decides, how she acts.

What explains this pressure? What enables this pressure to percolate and cause the President to stop in her tracks and change directions? What gives this pressure enough force to make Ms Macapagal blink in the face of threats?

We go to the Frankenstein analogy. What we've done is we've created a monster. Or, more correctly, what we've created has turned into a monster. People power has become our monster.

People Power I was filled with danger, but it achieved its objective—the ouster of dictator Ferdinand Marcos—with only little bloodshed. The relative ease, despite its genuine terror and potential cataclysmic consequences, buoyed the Filipinos' spirits. Indeed it was a liberating experience in more ways than one. But, without us knowing, we had created a monster from our experience.

After People Power I we carried on until destiny, with the help of some wealthy cronies and a few misguided ideologues, gave us Erap. Erap became intolerable. So we again uncorked people power and in four days Erap was gone.

But the precedent had been set. First, People Power I. Then the sequel. If you can do it, we can do it too, concluded Erap's henchmen. From out of the woodwork came tens, hundreds of thousands, of Erap's supporters, angered by the humiliating sight of the ex-president being fingerprinted and photographed at police headquarters. What is now reluctantly called Edsa III came like a howling wind in the night.

The protagonists at Edsa III wanted to take over Malacañang. And so they made an attempt and nearly breached the presidential perimeter.

And so here we are again. Another threat of people power, now from the President's friends. They will rise to inveigh against decent treatment of an ex-president, others against increased prices of fuel, still others against other concerns. We've become people power-happy. It's not hard to conclude that the convulsions will come again and again, like a monster gone berserk.

But this is predictable. The resort to people power can be expected. Because it's typical of Filipinos to find shortcuts to solving their problems. Because we like to take the quick way out. Instead of going through a process, we often mope and grumble and fret. But we don't take action. We cuss and cuss but it's only the wind we curse. And when we've had enough, we simply take to the streets and take matters into our own hands. In the case of Marcos and Estrada, we resorted to people power. A considerable force wanted to do the same to Ms Macapagal and came to within striking distance.

Ms Macapagal has placed herself between a rock and a hard place. By wanting to be all things to all people, she has put herself in a dilemma. By wanting to please everyone, she has now to worry more about survival than reaping success in the next three years.

The humble advice from this observer is to think issues through with her advisers without worrying about political consequences. She appears to be too concerned about her prospects in 2004 that her actions seem to be dictated by that concern. Many people I talk to opine that what's important is for her to do a good job of being president of all the people and performance will take care of 2004.

The President has vacillated on the house arrest issue. She sways with the political currents, swings with the political pendulum. She should instead take the best advice on the matter, use her common sense and instincts, decide and stick by it. She shouldn't cheapen her office by agreeing to meet with every Tom, Dick and Harry who has a gripe about the way she governs. She need not isolate herself from pressure groups or the public. But she shouldn't be so accessible as to fritter away her precious time by being nice to gripers.

In the Erap case, what's important is the verdict on the charges against the former president. Lawyers helping to prosecute Estrada and other cause-oriented groups should focus on making evidence airtight enough for conviction. How we get there, like Erap is confined, is less important. To quibble about house—in this case a simple house—or jail arrest is a waste of time and energy.

Leandro V. Coronel is a writer formerly based in the United States.

Kashmir summit marks new beginning

NEWS ANALYSIS

Rana Jawad

ISLAMABAD—A landmark summit between the leaders of Pakistan and India over Kashmir should be seen as the start of a lengthy process rather than a make-or-break shot at peace, analysts said Wednesday.

The stage has been set for a meeting in New Delhi some time in June or July, the first summit between leaders of the nuclear rivals since early 1999. Observers said it would be asking too much to expect Pakistani military ruler Gen. Pervez Musharraf and Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee to resolve any of the core differences over Kashmir in their first meeting.

Seasoned Kashmir watchers know that any movement on such fundamental issues—which strike at the heart of Indian and Pakistani national identity—will be as slow as the glaciers in the north of the divided Himalayan state.

"If the process is able to build a framework for structured dialogue, that will be good. But I would see this meeting as a process, not an event," said Mushahid Hussain, a former Pakistani information minister and foreign policy analyst. "Nobody should expect a 54-year-old dispute to be resolved overnight. That is unrealistic. But the fact that one army head and one leader of a Hindu nationalist party are meeting to negotiate is something special."

Alexander Evans, a research associate and author about Kashmir based at the Centre for Defence Studies at King's College London, said there (is) a lot of no-man's land and precious little common ground between the Indian and Pakistani positions on Kashmir. "India and Pakistan remain far apart--particularly on Kashmir. A resolution of a series of other disputes, ranging from Siachen (a disputed glacier) to trade, could easily be concluded by officials," he said. "But Kashmir remains the challenge. India sees a solution as far off, and far away from what Pakistan seeks. Pakistan hopes for a favorable resolution, but few, even in Pakistan, expect that to be swift or on Pakistan's terms. As for Kashmiris, well, they don't get asked their opinion too often by any governments."

He warned that both leaders were hamstrung by domestic forces which opposed any compromise on Kashmir, a fertile but largely undeveloped state which is divided between Pakistan and India but claimed by both.

"There are a lot of critics who don't want to see talks succeed," Evans said. "On the Pakistani side, militants and hardliners fear it could pave the way for concessions from Islamabad. This, they reckon, would be an 'Indian trick.' On the Indian side, insufficient clarity as to what the long-term Kashmir policy can or will be makes serious progress difficult to foresee."

Vajpayee's offer of talks with Musharraf, made last week and formally accepted by the general on Tuesday, was a dramatic turnaround in Indian policy toward official contact with the Pakistani leadership.

New Delhi accuses Islamabad of fostering Islamic militancy in the Indian part of the Muslim-majority state, where a bloody separatist rebellion has raged since 1989, and had insisted that "cross-border terrorism" should cease before talks could resume.

But analysts said the surprise offer of dialogue should not be seen as a sign that India was ready for any other compromises. "I do not yet see any indication of flexibility on the part of the Indians to show that they really want to settle the core dispute of Kashmir," said Khalid Mahmood, a professor of political science at the Islamabad-based Institute of Regional Studies. "Just a couple of weeks ago the Indians were insisting that they would hold talks only with the Kashmiri leaders and not with Pakistan. Now they want to hold talks with Pakistan minus the Kashmiri leaders. It does not necessarily mean that there is any flexibility on the part of the Indians."

India and Pakistan have fought two of their three wars over Kashmir, while the separatist rebellion in the Indian-controlled part of the state has claimed more than 34,000 lives since 1989.

AFP

An extinct way of life

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

IN THE VAULTS of the Newberry Library is a bound collection of manuscripts by a certain Jose Ma. Mourin who traveled to the Philippines in the 1870s. The spine of the book simply reads "Apuntes de Filipinas (Notes on the Philippines)" and I was drawn to it because it contained an account of a visit to Pampanga in December 1876.

The Newberry Library bibliographer, in a printed catalogue, expressed disappointment with Mourin for recording little about the people and topography of Pampanga. Not much, it seemed, was useful to a scholar since Mourin was preoccupied with socials that were the high points of his trip.

I guess the manuscript was a personal journal or at least the jottings of a tourist and should not be expected to be as informative as the logbook of an explorer. Researchers sometimes have the bad habit of expecting too much from a historical source. There are times when one simply has to take the source for what it is. Being half-Kapampangan, I felt the manuscript was worth the trouble.

Mourin traveled through San Fernando, Lubao, Sexmoan and Guagua, taking short notes of churches and other views he saw from the river. He correctly described Arayat as an ancient (and dormant) volcano. He visited Bacolor, then the capital of Pampanga, going through its spacious church inside and out. He was particularly impressed with the Bacolor Church, with its paintings by Alberoni. Unfortunately, what was once the great villa of Bacolor is but a faint memory today. Most of its grand houses and its historic church are all buried in lahar, waiting for archaeologists to excavate its treasures to recreate a lost gilded age.

Early on I disagreed with Mourin because he visited nearby Betis Church and merely described it as "*bonito.*" This wonderful small church, which was spared by lahar, has, at least for me, the most beautiful interior in the whole Pampanga. Don't take my word for it, ask Randy David who is from Betis.

Bacolor was the base from which Mourin made short trips to other towns—Porac, Mexico, Candaba, Tarlac, Sto. Tomas and Sulipan—using all modes of transport from banca to horse-(and I presume, carabao-)drawn carriages. In Bacolor he enjoyed the hospitality of a certain Puig who served coffee in a precious Japanese *vajilla.* Champagne flowed liberally in this house which boasted of a well-stocked library.

To induce sleep, Mourin chose a book in Spanish on the "Lives of the Presidents of the United States." Curiously the same book was supposed to have been read by Andres Bonifacio and formed one of the inspirations for the Philippine Revolution. Was this book the bestseller of the late 19th century? If it was seen to be subversive, how did it pass the censors who screened all printed materials that passed through the ports of Manila? Copies seemed to be in the right places, from Bonifacio's bodega to the library of the Rizals in Calamba to an upper-class Bacolor home.

We all know that Pampanga is noted for its distinct cuisine. Mourin documented this from servings of "frothy and thick chocolate, *bizcochos, mamones, quesos de Calumpit, manzanitas* and *castañas* from China." This wonderful spread served as an appetizer or *merienda* before an 8 p.m. procession that he described in detail. One can only imagine what the main meals were like. Perhaps Mourin was too full to bother writing about them.

He spent Christmas in Bacolor and New Year in Sulipan as a guest of Capitan Joaquin Arnedo and Capitana Maria whose old house was spacious and agreeable. The house was divided in two: one wing for the Arnedo family and another for guests, with its brilliant halls, huge dining room and guest rooms lined one after another, all extremely clean and furnished very tasteful furniture. Most notable was the profusion of 10 chandeliers and rich and elegant lamps. In the salon were magnificent mirrors, a good piano, etc.

Again Mourin was served frothy special chocolate with "*ironica*" (whatever that is) as well as an array of pastas, *ensaimadas*, exquisite breads, *bollos* and *mamones*—all very rich and homemade.

The party began at 6:30 p.m. with a vocal and instrumental concert. Someone at the piano accompanied *indios* singing in addition to musicians who played three violins, a cello and two flutes, one of which was played by Felipe Buencamino and the other by Capitan Joaquin himself.

Peach sherbet was served at 7 together with *mantecado* and mango ice cream with *barquillos* and other sweets. To cope with this insulin rush, exercise was provided by the *rigodon* and uninterrupted dancing till way past 9 p.m. At 9:30 an abundant dinner was served on precious china and silver flatware that, according to some accounts, were dramatically thrown out the window into the nearby river after the meal. Capitana Maria and her daughters took charge of the servants or *criadas* (described as "*listas*") to ensure that the meal proceeded with no hitch despite the table and setting being changed thrice over dinner.

What is left of the Arnedo hospitality is now history and lives only in a cookbook, "Cocina Sulipeña," and a restaurant, Gene's Bistro, run by Gene Gonzalez, a descendant of those now legendary hosts. Imagine an extinct way of life dredged from faded memory by a manuscript resting in a Chicago library.

* * *

Comments are welcome at ambeth@admu.edu.ph

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO . . .?

Murder case vs battered wife

ON OCT. 25, 1999, Aldrin Pielago was stabbed to death in his home in Sta. Ana, Manila. He sustained at least 80 stab wounds. His common law wife Menzi Mendez, who, neighbors said, was an out-patient of the National Center for Mental Health, confessed to the stabbing.

Mendez initially maintained that Pielago, a suspected drug-dependent, committed suicide. But then she told reporters she actually killed Pielago. She said that he looked like the devil every time he maltreated her.

Mendez was reportedly a battered wife. Neighbors said Mendez shouted for help that early morning. A resident of the barangay who saw Mendez on the dike of the Pasig River said she sought her help in throwing the dead body into the river.

Instead of keeping her in prison, the police brought Mendez to the NCMH. On Nov. 8, she was charged with murder before the Manila Regional Trial Court

The case was raffled off to the sala of Judge Luis Arranz of Branch 11. But when the court pointed out that it only had jurisdiction over drug-related cases, the case was transferred on Dec. 7 to the sala of Judge Rodolfo Ponferada.

The arraignment and pre-trial scheduled on Jan. 21, 2000 was suspended by an order released on the same day. The court said it was necessary to wait for the official result of the NCMH's examination. On Feb. 17, 2000, the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology informed the court that Mendez has started undergoing examinations at the NCMH.

Case status: Mendez was arraigned on April 17, 2001, after the NCMH certified that she was capable of undergoing trial. She pleaded "not guilty." The pre-trial was held on May 16.

Armin P. Adina, PDI Research Department

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More harm than good

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I CAN understand the need for secrecy. The operations against the Abu Sayyaf need to be kept under wraps to make them effective. It makes no sense telegraphing your punches, particularly where your enemy is a ruthless bandit gang hiding behind the cloak of political oppression. And this is a country that has as much ability to keep secrets as a gossip columnist given a juicy story about a famous matron. This is the only country where coup attempts are known in advance. People even know the time and day they will happen. This is also the only country where coup attempts are known in advance but nearly succeed anyway.

So I can buy the idea that details of the military strategy against the Abu Sayyaf may not be divulged by the media. There are limits to the public's right to know. The timing of the information is one such limit. The public may know about how the military managed to rout the Abu Sayyaf only after it has done so. Not before.

I can understand as well that media have a tendency to blur notoriety and fame, turning villains into heroes, bandits into cheeky rogues, terrorists into larger-than-life, made-for-movie, cult figures. The movie "15 Minutes" would have driven home the point about media's culpability in encouraging warped minds to commit mayhem to bathe in the glare of public attention. An even earlier movie, Costa-Gavras' "Mad City," showed the propensity of media for turning molehills into mountains, a simple outpouring of rage by a security guard into a full-blown hostage drama, with the most tragic consequences.

I agree that one of the things that have greatly emboldened the Abu Sayyaf to venture into new territory is the fierce attention given to them by media during Erap's time. Or more to the point, the media's transformation of them into household names. Abu Sabaya showed the effects of that kind of attention when he scorned the thought of any local outfit producing a movie about his life, saying he would sell the rights to his story only to a foreign group, notably Hollywood.

In the United States, it is standard policy to not give assassins of famous personalities any media coverage. No one now remembers the man who tried to assassinate Ronald Reagan to show his unconditional love for Jodie Foster. Even more so the man who assassinated John Lennon (he has been buried in forgetfulness). The best punishment for people who want fame that way is oblivion.

But I don't know that a media blackout is the answer to this problem. I should think the better way would be to appeal to the conscience of media, or better still to talk to the media leaders about the vital need for care and responsibility in covering the campaign against the Abu Sayyaf. I do think that media have a conscience, even if that is not always apparent, even if you will constantly find rogues who will not mind recklessly reporting rumor, or worse sacrificing the common good for a scoop. I do think the media have a sense of responsibility, which they amply demonstrated in their coverage of Edsa II. Or more to the point, which they demonstrated in their coverage of "Edsa III."

Or non-coverage of it. I personally think the media went overboard on that. The fact that the crowd there was hostile to some of them is not sufficient justification for it. But that is another story. The point here is that the media can be counted upon to take it upon themselves to not give people with warped minds a chance to grandstand.

If so, then that makes a media blackout on the military operations against the Abu Sayyaf completely unnecessary. All that's needed is to talk to the media and find common ground on what and what not to cover. A news blackout in fact may not just prove to be unnecessary, it may prove to be tremendously harmful.

There is one thing the public ought to know every step of the way, and that is the conduct of the campaign. The public may not be told about the military's strategy against the Abu Sayyaf, but they should be told about how it is being carried out. There are monumental dangers in the media—and the public—being kept in the dark about how the campaign against the Abu Sayyaf, which has gone all the way to Sulu, is going on.

At the very least, it could lead to rampant human rights abuses. Already, there's talk about hiring vigilantes and bounty hunters to run after the Abu Sayyaf leaders. The government has publicly rejected the idea, but without public attention drawn to it, it would be the easiest thing for vigilantes and bounty hunters, apart form the usual suspects—the paramilitary groups, the fanatical cults and the anti-Muslim groups in the south—to mount their own private campaigns against the Muslims in general with the tacit approval of the military, or even its active support.

We may not end one reign of lawlessness by creating another. Certainly, we may not end a type of lawlessness that has pissed off the international community only by producing a bigger type of lawlessness that pisses off the local community. We **know** the cost of unleashing the dogs of war to try to end war. That was what Cory Aquino did in the second half of the 1980s, and we are still reeling from its effects. That was what thwarted Pepe Diokno's dream of ushering in a regime of human rights, a dream that has receded from the horizon over the years.

But far more importantly, without fierce public attention drawn to it, the campaign against the Abu Sayyaf could again escalate into a war against the Moro Islamic Liberation Front and the Muslims in general. The government may not want that, but a lot of other elements in society, notably in the South, do. Without media to cover their activities, they will not only have reasons to jack up the ante, they will have the opportunity to do so. It would be the easiest thing for them to bait the MILF into responding to a provocation, which could be projected as the original provocation calling for even tougher government response.

That is not to speak of what the human rights abuses against the Muslim population, which are bound to happen outside the glare of media, will do. Which clearly will be to stoke the embers of the Muslims' resentment of Christians, and fan the fires of *jihad*. The MILF did talk of a *jihad* last year, but never really launched it. That is obviously something we cannot afford today. The point is to isolate the Abu Sayyaf, not allow it to find refuge and succor in the Muslim community by a common plight.

Without media, we may be sending them straight into its arms.

* * *

Comments are welcome at dequiros@vasia.com

Deregulation creating new poor

LETTERS

THE TRUE test of the pro-poor civil society groups behind President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is the government's current drive toward deregulation. The President will stick to this policy because this is the bedrock of her World Trade Organization-International Monetary Fund-World Bank-oriented liberal economics. The poor, including the new poor, will definitely be crushed in the end. You need proof?

- The Education Act gives school owners the option (with government getting out of the way) to increase tuition beyond the reach of many families. Their alternative: a poorly funded public school system, with underpaid, overworked and abused teachers. There will be thousands of dropouts when school opens this coming June.
- Oil firms increase the prices of their products beyond what is just and fair. This onerous decision is allowed by the climate of deregulation encouraged by the previous Congress. The Filipino has to tighten his belt contrary to the promises of his favorite candidates during the last elections.
- Congress is under pressure to pass the controversial Power Reform Bill. Nowhere in the bill is the promise that electricity will be cheap in the years following the transfer into private hands of the traditional function of the National Power Corp. of generating electricity, with the private firms, foreign or domestic, free to dictate prices.

The kind of people who will be adversely affected by such deregulation belongs to the middle rungs of the socio-economic ladder. This deregulation policy will create the new poor. This will broaden further what pollsters classify as the C, D and E classes, from this ranks were drawn the mad marchers of "Edsa III" who reached the gates of the presidential Palace on May 1.

I challenge the civil society groups behind the President to help extricate the new poor from the onslaught of increased prices of essential services like education, power, water, transportation, etc. due to the deregulation policies being pursued by the Macapagal administration. The alternative scenario is not nice to behold.—**RAUL E. SEGOVIA, national chair, Citizens' Alliance for Consumer Protection (CACP), 2864-C Zamora St., Pasay City**

Is it money over reforms?

THE FREEDOM from Debt Coalition has only one question to ask of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo: Will the government's desperate need for money from the International Monetary Fund and Asian Development Bank compel her to succumb to the shameless greed of independent power producers and private utilities, denying us a just and lasting solution to the problems of the power sector?

From the very start, the FDC has actively engaged the government on the controversial provisions of the power reform bill. For nearly three years, we have closely monitored various changes in the bill's provisions. Throughout the whole process, we have consistently raised our objections and put forward concrete alternatives. Sad to say, however, the Macapagal administration may only prove to be like its predecessors—unable and unwilling to listen.

The latest (May 4) version of the bill in the bicameral committee clearly shows that it did not depart from the February version she inherited from Joseph Estrada. Many critical and crucial changes being proposed by the President herself have yet to be integrated by Congress. What compromises will she make to get the bill passed, and thereby get hold of $950 million in borrowed funds? In the end, will money matter more than reforms? Will any power bill do, even one that will favor the already rich and powerful, against the larger interest of the consuming public?

The President recently appeared on television promising us that the passage of the power bill would bring down the cost of electricity, which is already the second highest in Asia. We beg to disagree. This may be wishful thinking.

The bill condones the existing contracts with independent power producers. Instead of reviewing these contracts and consequently renegotiating and rescinding those found to be onerous, our legislators have chosen to implicitly honor these contracts. As long as government honors these onerous contracts, power rates will not fall.

The bill actually encourages monopoly instead of the market competition that it supposedly espouses. There is no absolute ban on cross-ownership between distribution on generation sectors. In fact, the bill allows owners of distribution companies to be owners of generation firms, a provision that is highly favorable to the giants in the industry, particularly the Lopezes and the Aboitizes.

Distribution utilities are allowed to recover their stranded costs and pass on the burden to the consumers through a universal charge.

The next few days will demonstrate to us whether need and greed for money will prevail over what is right and just. We were not fooled by the promises of Congress, including then Sen. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, that oil deregulation would bring down the prices of gasoline and other petroleum products. We refuse to be fooled again. The President has made another promise that the people will not forget.—**MA. TERESA DIOKNO-PASCUAL, president, Freedom from Debt Coalition, 34 Matiaga St., Central District, Quezon City**

A very undemocratic practice

I APPRECIATE very much and I am greatly touched by the letter of Samuel J. Yap last May 15, titled "Christ would have wept."

He applauded the Society of the Divine World for speaking out through your columnist, Fr. Jerry Orbos, SVD, against the religious imperialism of the Iglesia ni Cristo, which dictates to its members whom to vote for in every election. "It is sickening to observe our politicians line up, hat in hand like poor mendicants, every election time before the INC powers that be, obsequiously seeking their political blessing and endorsement," he wrote. "They are leading their members to spiritual and political slavery."

Something must be done to correct this practice so that the Filipino people will learn and be educated, be mature enough to vote according to the dictates of their conscience and place the right people where they can serve the public best. Likewise our politicians should be honest in presenting their personal qualifications to the voters and not rely on the endorsement of the powers that be. We should not just let this practice go unchallenged. Elections are crucial in a democratic society.—**COL. ROMEO A. LAZO (ret.), Project 3, Quezon City**

Politicians can't be trusted

'TIS the season when idealism helplessly turns into distrust.

The softening disposition of the present leadership toward the issue of where and how to detain Joseph Estrada proves that politicians can't be trusted. An untrustworthy government is tragic especially to the people to whom it owes its existence.

The lawyers of the disgraced leader, whose uncanny ability to stretch the law to its breaking point is unmatched, argue that a former head of state ought to have all the amenities befitting his position.

But this is not just an issue of providing presidential comfort. In fact, the circumstances have progressed beyond the confines of criminal prosecution because what the authorities will or will not do in the coming days will define the Filipinos' level of civility and fidelity to the law.

Although no one should criticize the President for offering a hand of reconciliation, she must also be reminded that compromises and scandalous concessions would do her administration, and indeed the country, no good.

It is about time to inculcate respect for the law among Filipinos. The last thing this country needs is a politicking president.—**ALLAN FROILAN B. MENDOZA, allan_fbm@yahoo.com**

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Thieves treated better than political prisoners

FORMER PRESIDENT Joseph Estrada and son Jinggoy must be very lucky indeed to merit preferential treatment from President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. This does not happen to other prisoners.

The 28 political prisoners in the Tagum Provincial Jail in Mati, Davao, is a case in point. These prisoners, three of whom are children (of ages 16 to 17), a teacher and farmers, were arrested by the police last August 2000 during the height of the all-out war declared by Estrada. They were arrested and detained for alleged membership in the Moro Islamic Liberation Front simply because they are Muslims.

In the warrant used for their arrest, only a few suspects were named—all the others were identified as "John Does." This practice has been outlawed by Supreme Court rulings. The use of John Doe in an arrest warrant can only be valid if there is at least a description of the suspect's physical features. That never happened in this case.

Apart from that, it took days before these detainees' families were allowed to see them. They were not provided legal aid, they were not fed regularly and they were crammed in a cell that is too small for 28 people. Worse, they were boxed and hit with rifle butts and forced to admit to the charges against them.

Recently, appeals for the release of the prisoners were junked by the Commission on Human Rights which also dismissed their complaints about ill treatment and torture for lack of evidence.

We call President Macapagal's attention to this patent case of double standard. Will we allow thieves to enjoy the fruits of their theft while letting prisoners of conscience languish in jail?—**WINDEL ARME B. LACSON, research, documentation and information coordinator, Task Force Detainees of the Philippines, 19 Malingap St., Teachers' Village, Quezon City**

The WORLD

Violence from Wahid vote feared

JAKARTA—Indonesia braced for a violent reaction yesterday from supporters of President Abdurrahman Wahid after parliament moved closer to impeaching the country's first freely elected leader.

Speculation mounted that the embattled president could call a state of emergency in a last-ditch attempt to ward off impeachment.

About 2,000 Wahid loyalists had gathered at Jakarta's central Monas square by noon and more were expected ahead of a planned demonstration against parliament.

Security forces were on high alert in the capital and in Wahid's East Java stronghold, where thousands of his supporters have clashed with police and vandalized buildings linked to the Muslim cleric's foes.

"We are angry," said 20-year-old Samain, one of thousands of Wahid supporters who have poured into the capital in recent days.

"We support Gus Dur (Wahid's nickname) because he is a religious scholar, and it is incorrect to try to topple him. We hope to go to the Istana (palace) to show our support," he said in Monas square.

"It is wrong for Akbar (Tanjung) to force him out," he added of the chair of the People's Representative Council (DPR), the lower house of parliament.

The DPR voted overwhelmingly late Wednesday to call for a special session of the national assembly, the People's Consultative Assembly (MPR), to hold Wahid to account for his rule.

A rejection of the account would mean the impeachment and sacking of Wahid less than two years after he became Indonesia's first democratically elected president.

Thousands of Wahid supporters had stormed the gates of the parliament complex prior to the DPR vote but were held back by lines of fully armed riot police.

MPR chair Amien Rais, another outspoken critic of Wahid's alleged incompetence and involvement in financial scandals, said he would immediately convene the MPR executive to prepare for the special assembly.

MPR rules specify two months are supposed to pass before the special session of Indonesia's highest legislature can be convened at the request of the lower house.

But Rais told RCTI television the fateful session could be held earlier if conditions warranted, and if there was a "national consensus."

The DPR chair added the special session could come about immediately if Wahid implemented his threat to declare a state of emergency, which would allow him to dissolve parliament.

"If the political situation escalates further and becomes critical, then the special session can be held immediately, without having to wait for two months," Akbar said.

Wahid's call for a state of emergency has been bitterly opposed by his own ministerial team of advisers and by the military.

"That is his last club, the only one remaining and the one he has not yet used," Kusnanto Anggoro of the Jakarta-based Center for Strategic International Studies said.

Wahid told a delegation of his supporters after the DPR vote that he was considering steps in anticipation of the military refusing to implement a state of emergency, the Satunet online news service reported.

It quoted Thamrin Amal Tomagola, who was among the nine supporters who met Wahid, as saying the president had promised "firm action" in response to the DPR's move.

Wahid also promised to meet with the thousands of his supporters gathering in Monas square. *AFP*

Mideast foes hold 2nd meet

JERUSALEM—Israeli and Palestinian security chiefs had their second meeting under US auspices, but a car bombing, gunfire attacks and funerals threatened to overshadow truce efforts.

Unhappy over the absence of top West Bank security commanders at the first meeting, US officials canceled a Wednesday session with the Palestinians over another topic—implementing the report of an international commission on stopping eight months of violence, according to an official close to the talks.

However, the second security meeting, about the Gaza Strip, was held late Wednesday, with many of the same participants. The US side was represented by diplomats and the CIA, the official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said.

Maj. Gen. Abdel Razek el-Majaidah, chief of Palestinian public security in Gaza, said afterward that the Palestinians demanded that Israel remove restrictions and evacuate eight Palestinian houses seized in Gaza in the past month.

Israel demanded an end to Palestinian "violence and terrorism," according to a statement from the Defense Ministry, which said the talks would continue next week.

Alongside the sputtering talks, violence and its aftermath dominated the atmosphere.

A car bomb exploded in front of a high school in the seaside city of Netanya, sending pieces of metal flying in all directions, just 10 minutes after students left the school. No one was injured, but several Israelis went to a hospital for treatment of shock.

The militant Palestinian Islamic Jihad group claimed responsibility for the attack in Netanya, which is just 15 km from the West Bank.

Two Israeli women killed in a Palestinian drive-by shooting in the West Bank were buried Wednesday in emotional, politically-charged funerals. *AP*

WORLDBRIEFS

China suffers drought

BEIJING—Millions of hectares of farmland have been scorched and 16 million people are short of water as China suffers one of its worst droughts in a decade, official media said yesterday. The drought was the most persistent and widespread since 1990, affecting more than 23.3 million hectares of land, the China Daily said. The prolonged dry spell had brought a shortage of drinking water to more than 16 million people and 12 million head of livestock in northeast and southwest China, it said. The drought, which has lasted for nearly 100 days, was affecting densely populated regions along the Yellow River and Huaihe River, the State Flood-Control and Drought Prevention Headquarters in Beijing said. *AFP*

Gulf War compensation

DHAKA—Most of the 100,000 Bangladeshi expatriates who were forced to flee Kuwait after the 1990 Iraqi invasion have received millions of dollars in UN compensation, officials said yesterday. The United Nations Compensation Commission (UNCC) had released 329 million dollars for Bangladeshi claimants. An additional 11.8 million dollars which had been held up by legal loopholes was made available earlier this month, foreign ministry officials said. The handouts bring the UNCC's total payments to Gulf War victims so far to $12 billion, funded in part by revenues generated by the export of Iraqi oil and petroleum products. *AFP*

Woman regains memory

NEW DELHI—A 60-year old Indian woman who suffered amnesia for 25 years has been reunited with her family after her memory finally ret[illegible] the Indian Express reported yesterday. The[illegible] hailing from the central Indian city of Nagpur, Vimla was four[illegible] ago wandering far away from [illegible], in the northern Indian st[illegible], the report said. She was then put into a home for the destitute in Amritsar. *AFP*

'Casanova robber' nabbed

KUALA LUMPUR—Malaysian police have arrested a Casanova-style crook believed to have robbed at least 100 women after romancing them, newspapers said Thursday. The suspect's modus operandi was to cruise for young ladies and take them on dates before robbing them of cash and jewelry, police in the northeastern state of Terengganu were quoted as saying. "The victims would then be dropped off at secluded areas, unharmed," one officer told Berita Harian newspaper. Police said the suspect, who had a criminal record, was in his thirties. He was described as "attractive and fashionably attired" by his hapless female victims. *AFP*

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0687 Series of 2001

Death demanded for embassy bomber

NEW YORK—Backed by testimony from grief-stricken relatives, federal prosecutors asked a jury Wednesday to condemn to death one of the men convicted of mass murder in the 1998 bombings of two US embassies in Africa that killed 224 people.

"Justice is not done yet," Assistant US Attorney Patrick Fitzgerald told jurors during the penalty phase in the trial of Mohamed Rashed Daoud Al-'Owhali, 24, of Saudi Arabia.

A separate proceeding will follow for Tanzanian co-defendant Khalfan Khamis Mohamed, 27, for whom prosecutors also intend to seek the death penalty. The two other defendants in the case were convicted of lesser charges.

"Each of you will be convinced in the end that the only just punishment that does justice for the victims is the death penalty," Fitzgerald said.

The defense is expected to argue that Al-'Owhali should be spared because he was indoctrinated into a militant Muslim culture at a very young age, and believed he was a soldier in a war against the United States.

Defense attorney David Baugh said he agreed "with the government that you should not forget the victims." He then read all the victims' names. "I don't think anyone can make an excuse for what happened in this case," Baugh said. "However, there can be an explanation." *AP*

Decision to reform sanctions on Iraq put off for 6 months

WASHINGTON—Seeking to end an impasse, the United States, Britain, France and Russia have reached a tentative agreement to put off for up to six months a United Nations decision on restructuring sanctions against Iraq, a senior US government official said Wednesday.

Iraq's current oil-for-food program, due to expire on June 3, will be temporarily extended, primarily to give Russia a chance to scrutinize a proposed new list of banned items, the official in President George W. Bush's administration said.

The extension, to be put in the form of a UN resolution over the weekend, will nominally be for six months. But the official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, said the United States hoped the review could be completed in about a month.

Broad outlines of the agreement were hammered out in a meeting in Budapest, Hungary, over the past two days between US Secretary of State Colin Powell and the foreign ministers of Russia, Britain and France, said the official. China, the fifth veto-wielding member of the UN Security Council, was not part of the discussions.

The apparent agreement was principally designed to meet Russian objections to a US-British proposal to allow trade in most civilian goods with Iraq while tightening controls on military imports.

Powell told reporters traveling with him from Budapest, where he had attended a Nato meeting, that he was optimistic that the controversy would soon be resolved. "The action is back in New York," he said, referring to the United Nations.

He said there was "general agreement" that the punishing sanctions imposed when Iraq invaded Kuwait in 1990 "have lost some of their effectiveness."

"It is wise to move forward," Powell said.

"There will have to be some action taken," to keep the oil-for-food program from lapsing next week, he said.

The agreement came together during a meeting in Budapest earlier Wednesday between Powell and Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov. Russia has led an effort to put off the decision for six months. China and France have also argued against haste.

With the current June 3 deadline, the Security Council must extend—or revamp—the program that allows Iraq to sell oil to pay for the needs of its civilian population.

Under the plan, a simple resolution would be passed over the next few days extending the oil-for-food program, then a second resolution would be passed later detailing the banned imports. Other issues still remain to be decided, however, including how the embargo is to be enforced at border points and how to control smuggling, the official said.

Started in late 1996, the oil-for-food program allows Iraq to sell oil provided proceeds are used primarily to buy approved humanitarian supplies, compensate war victims and purchase oil industry spare parts. *AP*

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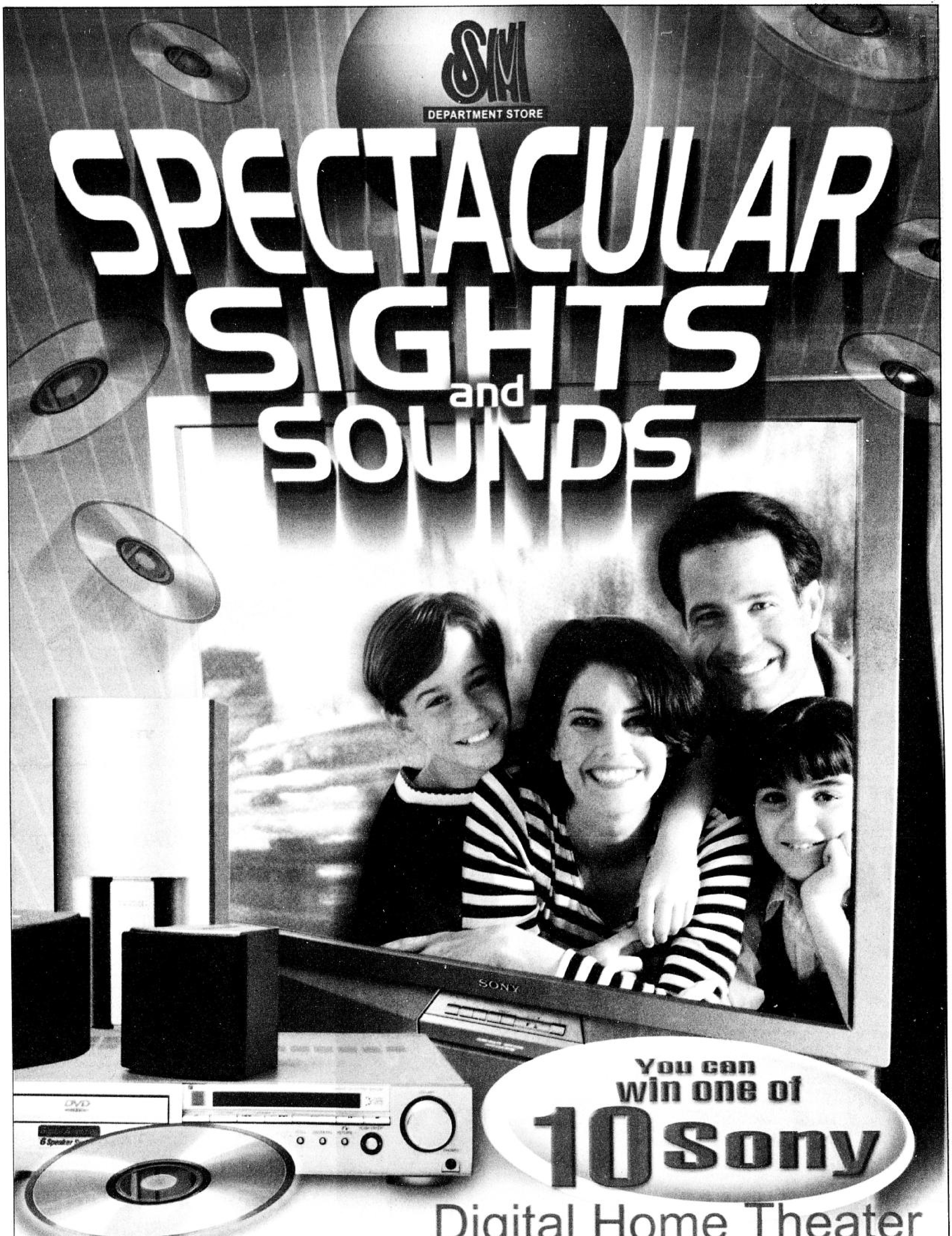

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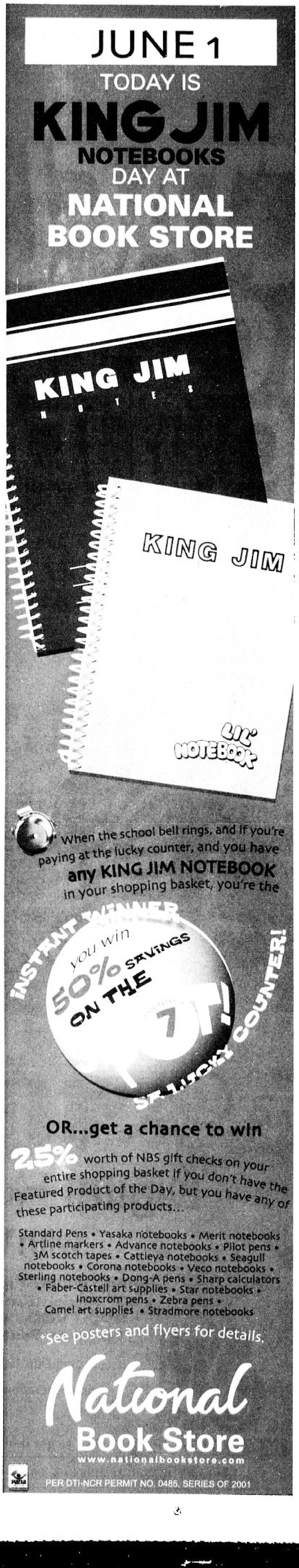

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Tribal folk target relay station tower

BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya—Due to a boundary dispute, tribal people are threatening to destroy a relay station tower of a telecommunications company at a disputed boundary of Mt. Province and Ifugao.

The 32-meter tower of Digital Telecommunications Inc. (Digitel) serves more than 500 telephone subscribers in the two provinces.

"If this (boundary dispute) will not be settled in due time, our subscribers will be deprived of telecommunications services," warned Peter Dumelod, Digitel area manager for Cagayan Valley.

Dumelod said he had asked for more security forces from the police and military to guard the telecommunications station's perimeter.

He said Digitel's relay station at Mt. Polis would be caught in the "crossfire" between members of tribal groups from two villages who are aggressively laying claims on the area.

"We have to protect our installation and personnel in the area," he said, citing the tension between tribal people from Barangay Viewpoint in Banaue, Ifugao, and from Barangay Bayyo in Bontoc, Mt. Province.

Members of the PNP mobile groups from the two provinces have been sent to the area to prevent a bloody confrontation between the tribal groups.

Tribal war fear

Dumelod said a bloody incident might trigger a tribal war among the villagers unless the claims of the two villages are addressed.

Carrying bolos and native weapons, village officials and residents of Viewpoint, who attended a consultation Tuesday, warned tribal folks from Bayyo to refrain from harassing personnel at the Digitel relay station

The confrontation was caused by an incident on May 4, where more than 60 residents of Bayyo, carrying gallons of gasoline, climbed the relay station, burned its fence and water reservoir, and nearly destroyed the station tower cables.

The villagers also set on fire a cogonal house, destroyed several plants and seized company equipment.

The burning, according to Dumelod, was triggered by an earlier demand of village officials and residents in Barangay Bayyo to transfer the guard at the relay station for his alleged illegal *kaingin* (slash-and-burn) practices.

They also urged Digitel officials to transfer their relay station from the area, claiming that Polis is part of Mt. Province.

Hunting grounds

The discovery of their ancestors' hunting grounds strengthened their stand to reclaim the area, saying it is covered by an ancestral domain claim of the villagers.

The Ifugao provincial police filed arson, robbery and malicious mischief charges against the village head of Bayyo and 60 villagers.

"Politically, Mt. Polis is part of Barangay Viewpoint in Banaue, and it is my belief that our employee is performing his duties well, so we cannot just get him out there," Dumelod said.

Polis is 22 km from Viewpoint and 10 km from Bayyo.

The Department of Transportation and Communications built the relay station in 1984 after a permit was issued by the Banaue municipal government. The facility was later turned over to Digitel in 1993 under a financial and management agreement.

Col. Limuel Lupang, police provincial director, said Ifugao Gov. Ildefonso Dulinayan and a representative of Mt. Province Gov. Leonardo Mayaen have agreed to settle the political and boundary disputes of the two villages in their provincial boards. *Ben Moses Ebreo, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Still no operational funds for tribal body

By FERDINAND O. ZUASOLA
PDI Mindanao Bureau

MATI, Davao Oriental—As operations of the provincial office of the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) here continued to be paralyzed, Mandaya tribesmen on Wednesday staged a protest action over the government's alleged indifference to their plight.

The NCIP is under the Office of the President.

"So far, we did not see any sign that President Macapagal-Arroyo is concerned with the indigenous people. Unless she is able to fully implement the Ipra (Indigenous Peoples Rights Act), the *lumads* will continue to look at her as an anti-*lumad* president," said Marilyn Yu-mon, officer in charge of the NCIP unit here.

Yu-mon told the INQUIRER that her office's P10,000 monthly operational funds have not been released since January 1998, allegedly due to lack of funds.

"Up to now, we could not understand why. There was no proper and clear explanation from the higher-ups, except that it was because of lack of funds," Yu-mon said.

The NCIP provincial office was able to pay for its office rental, and telephone and electricity bills only this month, according to Jun Cabiso, one of the office personnel.

Yu-mon said the NCIP regional office in Davao City was now shouldering the monthly office rental, and telephone and electricity bills.

She said that since there was no money for operations, all the agency's livelihood programs and medical missions to *lumad* communities in the province have been put on hold since 1999.

Yu-mon said NCIP personnel here were already demoralized. Most of them want to be refunded of expenses incurred during their medical missions to far-flung areas in the province, she added.

"We hope that before President Macapagal completes her term, she will be able to release our operational funds," she said.

All NCIP provincial offices nationwide suffer the same fate, forcing them to beg for donations, including cash, from local politicians so that services for the *lumads* can continue.

Police track down 20 prison escapees

LEGAZPI CITY—Police are pursuing 20 inmates who bolted the provincial jail in Milagros, Masbate, on Sunday night after killing the lone guard.

Chief Supt. Robert Delfin, Bicol regional director, said two of the inmates—Edgar Victoria Jr., 23, and Anastacio Laurio, 25—were able to approach and stab the guard, Rodolfo Gonzales, 48, with a knife.

The guard was then taking his dinner at 9 p.m.

Delfin said Victoria stabbed Gonzales, took his service shotgun and shot him at close range.

The prisoners returned to the detention cell and freed the other inmates who immediately fled.

Most of the detainees are facing charges of murder, rape and homicide.

Victoria, a native of Milagros, and Laurio, of Aroroy town, were detained for murder.

The jail in Barangay Matiporon, Milagros is under the provincial government of Masbate and headed by provincial warden Charlie "Gaga" Quidato, a former member of the military intelligence group.

Police are looking into reports that the killing of Gonzales and the escape of the inmates were connected to the reported release of at least six prisoners who were used as goons by local candidates during the last elections.

Earlier, Col. Pendatun Guro, spokesperson of the Armed Forces regional command, confirmed reports that Army soldiers assigned in Masbate had arrested six armed men, who were found to be detainees but hired as goons by a local politician.

The Commission on Elections in [illegible] provincial jail authorities to submit a list of inmates held at the provincial jail.

In April, four unidentified bodies, believed to be those who had bolted the provincial jail, were found in San Fernando town in Masbate.

Police records showed that at least 20 people, mostly supporters of local candidates in the towns of Cawayan, Milagros, Claveria and San Fernando, were killed during the campaign period. *Job Belen, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

2 policemen, civilian killed in NPA ambush

LEGAZPI CITY—Two policemen and a civilian were killed while another policeman was seriously wounded in an ambush staged by suspected members of the New People's Army in Manito, Albay, on Wednesday.

The fatalities were identified as PO3 Jose Baloloy, SPO1 Domingo Bulawan and civilian Renato Aringo.

The wounded, SPO2 Abraham Buendia, was rushed to the Bicol Regional Training and Teaching Hospital here.

Buendia said some 50 NPA rebels ambushed their patrol car while it was negotiating a rough road in Barangay Pawa, Manito, around 10:45 a.m.

He said all of them managed to leave the car, but the rebels sprayed them with bullets, killing Baloloy, Bulawan and Aringo instantly.

Buendia said a concerned citizen hid him in a safe place and helped him escape by boat.

The rebels finished off his fellow policemen, shooting them several times in the head, he added.

Police said the rebels took the guns of the dead policemen, including their shoes and other personal belongings.

The ambush happened while the village was celebrating its fiesta. *Job Belen, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

TARLAC CLASH

NPA claims civilians among dead

SOMEWHERE IN TARLAC—"Civilians were among the casualties."

This was the claim of New People's Army leaders here after an encounter with government soldiers at Sitio Bang in Barangay San Pedro in San Jose town that left nine people dead.

The leaders confirmed that five of those killed in the five-hour long firefight Monday were NPA rebels.

The Serafin Magdiwang Command operating in Tarlac said one of the fatalities, Marcelino de la Cruz, was a teacher.

"The military has been very irresponsible in the encounter. It shows their wanton disregard for civilian lives," an NPA leader, who identified himself as Ka Pio, said. "They (military) covered their mistakes by branding civilian casualties as dissident terrorists."

Capt. Thomas Bang-as, spokesperson of the 69th Infantry Battalion, however, denied that civilians were caught in the crossfire.

"De la Cruz was a teacher before he joined the insurgents," Bang-as told the INQUIRER.

Relatives of the slain civilians reportedly plan to ask the Commission on Human Rights to investigate the killings.

Captured in the encounter were Jun-Jun Morales, 18, and Gerardo Blanco, 17, both of San Jose town; and Melanie de la Cruz, 17, of Biñan, Laguna. Melanie, wife of De la Cruz, is four months pregnant.

The three are all civilians, according to the rebels.

"How can they be civilians when those captured were all armed?" Bang-as said. "The place is sparsely populated since it is a mountainous area."

Among those killed was a former aide-de-camp of Jose Maria Sison, founding chair of the Communist Party of the Philippines.

Also killed during the encounter was Oscar Estrada, 60, alias Ka Uban, who was highly respected by NPA rebels for his exploits as a member of a strike force in the 1970s.

A military source said Estrada was among the first to be killed in the encounter. "His other companions then scattered when they saw their leader die," a source told the INQUIRER said.

The source said the rest of the rebels became suicidal, throwing grenades and shooting while standing and without cover.

Bang-as confirmed this, saying some of the rebels were demoralized.

He said Estrada was also known to the military as a fierce fighter. "We tried to persuade him to surrender before he chose to be with the rebels," Bang-as said.

In Mati, Davao Oriental, three NPA rebels were killed while several others were wounded in a raid by Army soldiers in Barangay San Isidro here Wednesday morning.

Soldiers conducted the raid in the hinterland Sitio Bua, believed to be a rebel stronghold.

Maj. Alexis Gopico, chief of the Army's 8th Special Forces Battalion, said the soldiers clashed for more than an hour with about 17 rebels led by a certain Nemesio Munday, alias Rex.

The bodies of the unidentified rebels were turned over to barangay officials of San Isidro.

The soldiers recovered assorted firearms, ammunition, medical kits and documents. *Ronald Dizon, PDI Central Luzon Desk, and Ferdinand O. Zuasola, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Mayor charged with killing foe

By Ma. Diosa Labiste
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—Government prosecutors have filed charges against a mayor for allegedly killing a rival and wounding his driver in what was seen as one of the violent pre-election incidents in the Visayas.

In a three-page resolution, Provincial Prosecutor Irene Panigbatan and Assistant Prosecutors Globert Justalero and Antonio Ramos charged San Joaquin mayor Sebastian Serag with murder for the death of former town mayor Jesus Sibya on May 11.

Also charged were Lino Napao, barangay chair of Balabago, San Joaquin, and six to seven other unknown persons.

They were also charged with attempted murder for wounding Sibya's driver, Norberto Salamat III.

The victims were attacked outside the Reporma headquarters in Purok Uno, Poblacion, San Joaquin, 53 km south of here.

The criminal complaint was filed at 3 p.m. of May 28 before Regional Trial Court Branch 67 in Guimbal town, 29 km from here.

Prosecutors said they had not received information that presiding Judge Teodulo Colada inhibited himself from trying the case.

Colada's son, lawyer Lex Anthony, is married to the niece of Serag, Jennifer Garin.

Jennifer is the daughter of Serag's sister, Rep. Ninfa Garin, whose husband, Oscar Garin (NPC), won the congressional race in the first district of Iloilo against Lakas-NUCD candidate Jaime Torres.

Serag and Napao are detained at the Iloilo Rehabilitation Center. Serag and his lawyers failed to file counter-affidavits.

In his sworn statement, Salamat said Serag alighted from the Green Revo vehicle and shot Sibya one and a half feet away.

Both Sibya and Serag tumbled to the ground, he said. Sibya fell, holding on to the left shoulder of Serag, he added.

Salamat also said Napao went near Serag and Sibya and hit the former mayor on the head and back.

Salamat suffered minor wounds after Serag's supporters fired at him while he was looking for cover behind a parked car. He said he managed to escape and was brought to the St. Paul Hospital where Sibya was also taken and declared dead on arrival at 6:45 a.m.

Another witness, Dionisio Militante, corroborated Salamat's account. He said Serag shot Sibya without any provocation.

Comelec upholds gov's new term

BALANGA CITY—The Commission on Elections has dismissed the disqualification case against Bataan Gov. Leonardo Roman filed against him by a resident in Limay town.

In a resolution dated May 28, the Comelec en banc ruled that Roman did not violate the three-term limit for elective officials when he ran for governor during the May 14 elections.

In his election protest, Romeo Galang said Roman had already served three consecutive terms since 1993 when he won over then Gov. Enrique Garcia in a recall election.

The Comelec, however, ruled that recall elections could not be counted as a full term and would not be in the counting of the three-term limit prescribed under the Constitution.

The reckoning point, according to Comelec, is the 1995-98 term of Roman, the 1995 elections being the first regular election from the interruption caused by the recall elections in 1993.

Roman ran unopposed in the May 14 elections following a unification pact with Garcia that both parties would not be given opponents in their respective positions.

In Bacolod City, a defeated mayoral candidate asked the Comelec to nullify the proclamation of Luzviminda Valdez as mayoral winner in the May 14 elections.

Named respondents in the petition filed by Evelio Leonardia of the local party Unity Service Welfare Accountability Growth (Uswag) were Valdez and the city Board of Canvassers (BOC) headed by Norberto Plagata.

Leonardia claimed that the BOC, especially Plagata, was biased for Valdez. He said the canvassing appeared to be an "empty ceremony" as it was "manipulated" to favor Valdez.

Leonardia cited the BOC's refusal to give the total number of votes received by each candidate after every adjournment of the canvassing despite requests from the public and the local media to have it published. *Greg Refraccion, PDI Central Luzon Desk, and Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

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POLL CASUALTIES

Suit planned over damaged trees

BAGUIO CITY—The Commission on Elections was accused of "injuring" the city's pine trees on Tuesday when it virtually barred city employees from uprooting or destroying election campaign materials nailed on these trees.

Alay sa Kalinisan (ASK), a Baguio organization devoted to the city's cleanliness and re-greening, hurled the accusation in a press conference, minutes before it voted to sue Comelec and 40 national and local politicians, who violated the city ordinance penalizing those who damage trees.

Reynaldo Bautista Sr., ASK acting chair, quoted a May 4 letter to City Hall from the Comelec regional office which prohibited the city's general services office from undertaking routine cleanup operations unless they were supervised by Comelec employees.

"This is in connection with the authority given to (City Hall) by the (Comelec) as our deputy in removing all… campaign materials posted outside the common poster areas… Effective Monday, May 7, you can only tear down or remove illegal posters in the company of Comelec employees," wrote lawyer Armando Velasco, Comelec director in the Cordillera.

"It is obvious the letter was meant to subvert Baguio's cleanliness drive, because it is clear no Comelec employee would be available to accompany any city employee during the cleanliness drives because all of them were already involved in the elections," Bautista told the ASK members.

But Velasco insisted in an earlier press conference that his directives for poll cleanup always made references to applicable local government ordinances.

He said he had no inkling that the city's tree law was being violated during the election period.

Romeo Concio, general services officer, said Comelec officials here were apparently bullied by a political candidate into subverting an April 18 authorization from Comelec Commissioner Florentino Tuason Jr., which deputized his office to control illegal poll paraphernalia here.

Bautista said the Comelec directive "came at the most crucial moment when all political campaigns were certain to pull all the stops seven days into Election Day."

The net effect was the reported injury to a substantial volume of pine trees which was traced to the campaign networks of four senatorial candidates of the People's Power Coalition, seven candidates of the Puwersa ng Masa, and even incumbent Baguio government officials.

ASK is asserting a 1990 ordinance which fines persons up to P2,000 and penalizes them to a 10-day jail term for nailing or damaging any part of a Baguio tree.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources is also applying a circular which places the Baguio pine tree among the country's most protected tree species. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

SANIDAD
IS MY CONGRESSMAN

THIS tree is among the victims of election campaign. E. V. ESPIRITU

Ibalois oppose plan to build sewage system

BY DELMAR CARINO
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—Fearing the loss of their ancestral lands, residents of five villages here have opposed the plan of the Philippine Economic Zone Authority to build a sewerage and wastewater reclamation facility aimed at disposing of the zone's industrial wastes properly.

But affected Ibaloi families have become polarized after village officials passed a resolution endorsing the project to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP).

They said the resolution, dated Nov. 11, 2000, was made without proper consultation and that it did not reflect the true sentiments of the people.

In a public consultation here Thursday, PEZA officials unveiled before residents the master plan of the P64-million treatment plant as they tried to convince the DENR to issue the environmental clearance certificate (ECC).

Engineer Primitivo Napenas Jr. said the project is part of a P490-million loan from Japan's Overseas Economic Development Fund (OEDF). PEZA also intends to set up treatment plants in export processing zones in Mactan, Cavite and Bataan.

Spearheading the opposition to the issuance of an ECC are the heirs of the Carantes clan who now occupy around 10 hectares inside 117-hectare Baguio City Economic Zone.

The Caranteses have filed several cases before the courts questioning the authority of the PEZA to deprive them of their land claims which, they said, are now recognized when they were issued certificates of ancestral land claims.

Dr. Eduardo Francisco, PEZA consultant, said the project would solve the obnoxious odor that has disturbed residents in the five villages for several years.

He said the plant would also treat and reclaim water for proper use by residents.

But environmentalist Francisco Vibal opposed the project, saying it could also affect water and ground resources of the affected villages.

"I am concerned about the sludge and the chlorinated water that maybe emitted by the plant which may prove toxic," he said.

Vibal, speaking for the Caranteses, assailed the presentation of the master plan as too technical that the natives could not understand its jargon.

He expressed alarmed that the project could result in the contamination of water resources since the location of the main plant could pose as a threat to the main water source.

Jude Carantes, spokesman of the Association of Baguio City Ancestral Land Claimants, said the project should not push through because it would expropriate part of his clan's landholdings.

Hero cop gets burial honors

TUGUEGARAO CITY—The policeman who was killed while guarding ballots in Sta. Ana town was buried with full hero's honors in his hometown in Gonzaga on Saturday.

Chief. Supt. Dominador Resos Jr., Cagayan Valley police director, awarded SPO2 Gerardo Calaycay, a member of the PNP Maritime Group, a hero's medal, together with cash donated by various sectors as financial aid for his family.

Calaycay was gunned down by armed men who snatched ballot boxes from two precincts in Casambalangan Elementary School in Sta. Ana.

He and his companion responded to the call of members of the election inspectors for assistance during the counting of votes on May 14.

Resos will present to Calaycay's widow, Evelyn, a plaque of honor from Director General Leandro Mendoza, Philippine National Police chief.

At the Gonzaga town cemetery, a contingent of policemen gave the graveside honors before Calaycay was finally laid to rest.

At necrological rites and in the cemetery, Calaycay's family and friends wept before the policeman's coffin, saying in Ilocano "God, may this not happen again. Justice should be given to Gerardo."

Calaycay's widow also expressed concern over the future of her four young children.

Meanwhile, police are still awaiting the results of the paraffin and ballistics tests of Sta. Ana Mayor Orlando Manero and his brothers Dominador and Jose who were arrested for their alleged involvement in the Calaycay killing.

From the houses of the Maneros in Sitio Ipil in Sta. Ana, police seized a baby Armalite, an M-16 Armalite rifle, a shotgun and bullets and one of the four ballot boxes taken from Precincts 42-A and 44-A.

The boxes were retrieved earlier along the seashore with ballots and other election paraphernalia still intact.

Edna Tacazon, Sta. Ana election officer, identified the ballot box taken from Manero's house as one of those snatched from the precincts.

Estanislao Caldez, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

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ANNOUNCEMENT

Since August 1996, the Asian Women's Fund (AWF), in cooperation with the Government and people of Japan, has engaged in activities in the Philippines, of national atonement from the Japanese people and medical and welfare assistance, to meet moral responsibility to those who had suffered as former "wartime comfort women".

Eligibility

Surviving former "wartime comfort women" as of 19 July 1995 (the date of the establishment of the AWF), subject to recognition as such through the regular procedure, shall be eligible. If the person concerned, who had had a clear and proven intention to receive such atonement, is deceased after aforementioned date, a representative of the bereaved family (spouse and children), subject to recognition as such through the regular procedure, may be eligible.

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Should you be qualified as former comfort women, please write to obtain an application form and submit your applications to the Asian Women's Fund at PO Box 4704, Makati Central Post Office, Makati City, Philippines, not later than 12 August 2001, together with required documents (including the details of the suffering during the war in English) and photos.

No application will be accepted after 12 August 2001 (date of the postmark).

Asian Women's Fund

ROUNDUP

Electric meters stolen

LUCENA CITY—The Manila Electric Co. and its local franchisee here expressed alarm over the rampant stealing of electric meters in Sariaya, Pagbilao, Tayabas, Lucban, Mauban and Lucena. Engineer Ernesto Fraginal, Meralco branch head, said their office had recorded at least 30 cases of stolen meters as reported by their customers. He said their head office had ordered their security patrol division, together with some agents from the National Bureau of Investigation, to conduct surveillance in the area. In this city alone, police recorded at least eight incidents of meters stolen in a single night. *Arnel Avila, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

No paraffin test

DUMAGUETE CITY—Businessman Carlos Bell Raymond will not be subjected to a paraffin test because no one has filed a case against him for allegedly shooting his wife, former acting Dumaguete City Mayor Pilar Raymond, said Chief Insp. Rey Lyndon Lawas, officer in charge of the Dumaguete City Police Office. He said the illegal possession of firearms case filed by the police would not require a paraffin or ballistic test report. Lawas said the .38 caliber *paltik* revolver, which was allegedly used in shooting Pilar, was handed to the City Prosecutor's Office, which has scheduled a preliminary investigation of the case. *Alex V. Pal, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Cebu cop chief relieved

TABOGON, Cebu—SPO4 Segundino Lepon was relieved as police chief of Tabogon town after a *hilot* ran amok and fired at three persons using the firearms he stole from the police station Monday afternoon. Also relieved were PO1 Jobanie Rios, PO2 Rosendo Hortelano, PO1 Jose Reden and PO1 Jose Rospel. Rios, Reden and Rospel left the station to respond to a vehicular accident. Rosendo did not notice Rodulfo Ruiz sneaking into the police station because he was being interviewed over the telephone by a radio station. Ruiz surrendered to the police on Tuesday, 12 hours after taking two M-16 rifles and several rounds of ammunition from the police station.
Nagiel B. Bañacia, PDI Visayas Bureau

Stop overfishing, group urges

DUMAGUETE CITY—An official of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) urged the academe and non-government organizations to get involved in the drive against overfishing. "If this blatant activity of overfishing will not be put to a stop, there will be no more galunggong or roundscad or any other seafood in a couple of years," said Leila Peralta, Coastal Resources Management Project program manager, during the 8th Program and Policy Advocacy Group Forum-Workshop on Sunday. She said most fishermen complained of declining fish catch because of the intrusion of commercial fishermen in their municipal waters. *Alex V. Pal, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Public warned vs 'sago'

COTABATO CITY—The Bureau of Food and Drugs (BFAD) regional office here has warned the public against *sago* food products believed to be laced with Borax. Borax is a chemical that destroys internal organs and the human brain. William Torres, BFAD director, said five *sago* manufacturers in the country were found to be using Borax. Torres advised the public to coordinate with the BFAD before buying *sago* products.
Edwin O. Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau

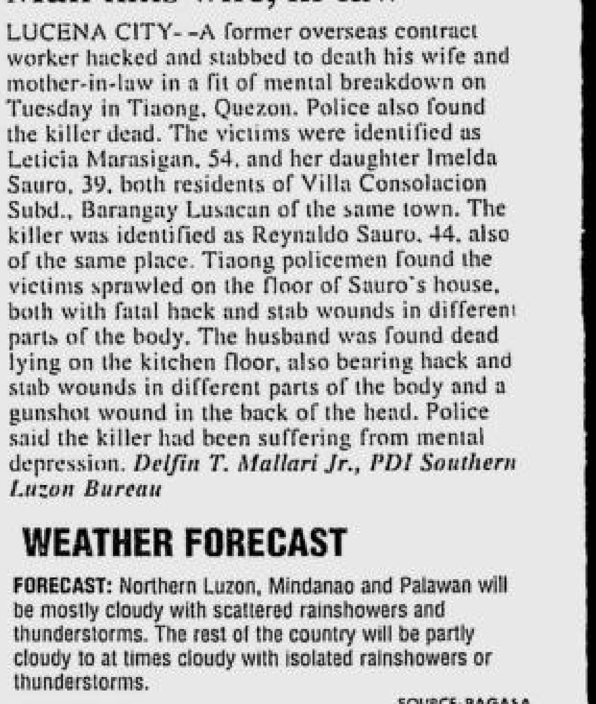
Man kills wife, in-law

LUCENA CITY—A former overseas contract worker hacked and stabbed to death his wife and mother-in-law in a fit of mental breakdown on Tuesday in Tiaong, Quezon. Police also found the killer dead. The victims were identified as Leticia Marasigan, 54, and her daughter Imelda Sauro, 39, both residents of Villa Consolacion Subd., Barangay Lusacan of the same town. The killer was identified as Reynaldo Sauro, 44, also of the same place. Tiaong policemen found the victims sprawled on the floor of Sauro's house, both with fatal hack and stab wounds in different parts of the body. The husband was found dead lying on the kitchen floor, also bearing hack and stab wounds in different parts of the body and a gunshot wound in the back of the head. Police said the killer had been suffering from mental depression. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Northern Luzon, Mindanao and Palawan will be mostly cloudy with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA



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GOV'T HANDS TIED

Privatization critics blame Gloria predecessors

BAGUIO CITY—State workers, who expected President Macapagal-Arroyo to stop the privatization of the National Power Corp. and the National Food Authority, are bound to confront the same fate in the next few months.

But instead of condemning her, these employees are offering Ms Macapagal more sympathy, despite the impending passage of the controversial omnibus power reform bill next, and the increase of oil prices.

Genevieve Cortes, NFA Benguet director, said state workers who were chief critics of the privatization of Napocor and NFA, are aware that the Estrada administration tied Ms Macapagal's hands when the government used the NFA and Napocor as leverages to obtain new international loans.

She said one such loan from the Asian Development Bank released to the Philippines this year now compels Cabinet officials to support the NFA phaseout.

The release of $400 million in fresh funds from international banks is also anchored on the sale of Napocor, it was learned.

These "extenuating circumstances" have prompted state workers to either suspend their protests or negotiate a compromise.

But other NFA officials and Napocor union leaders here said they would continue to step up protests in the provinces against the privatization of state firms because Ms Macapagal had been "helping lead privatization efforts started in 1988 by her predecessors."

Thursday's oil price increase should warn Ms Macapagal that state workers and consumers have been awakened to the evils of privatization, a Napocor union leader said.

The Napocor unions, that led rallies against the power reform bill from 1999 to 2000, anticipated radical policy changes to occur on the heels of the ouster of President Joseph Estrada. Many union leaders openly joined the protests that helped displace the former president.

Although the privatization of Napocor had been on the pipeline since the administrations of Corazon Aquino and Fidel Ramos, the measure calling for its sale was sponsored under Estrada's administration. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

26 Davao schools hike fees

DAVAO CITY—A total of 26 schools here are increasing their tuition by an average of 15 percent, prompting student organizations to set protests next week.

The Commission on Higher Education (CHEd) listed 28 schools that got the go-signal for a tuition increase. But two schools decided to forego the increase, Teresita Diabordo of CHEd said.

CHEd requires schools to hold consultations with parents and students before raising their rates. It mandates that 70 percent of any tuition increase should go to salary increases for teachers and employees, 20 percent for facilities and 10 percent as return on investment.

Ariel Casilao, Anak-Bayan vice president for Mindanao, said the University of Immaculate Conception and the Assumption School of Davao decided not to increase their tuition this school year despite pending applications.

Among the major schools increasing their fees are the Ateneo de Davao University, Holy Cross of Davao College, University of Mindanao, San Pedro College, Brokenshire School, AMA Computer College, STI and Davao Doctors College.

In a publication, Ateneo announced a 10-percent increase of tuition and other fees (except for the Graduate School). It said it limited its increase to 10 percent out of consideration to parents experiencing economic difficulties.

Ateneo's plan to increase fees was reportedly announced to the students and parents in consultation meetings held on Feb. 3 and 4.

The Ateneo said the increase could cover expenses on new facilities, upgrading of programs, and student, faculty and institutional development as part of its commitment to excellence.

On Monday, Anakbayan picketed the office of CHEd here to oppose the tuition increase.

Casilao said youth organizations here will continue with their protests, with June 4 as the national day of youth protest.

Other student organizations will hold their protests within the first two weeks of June. He said there are already ongoing meetings to unify student organizations for their next move.

Ayan C. Mellejor, PDI Mindanao Bureau

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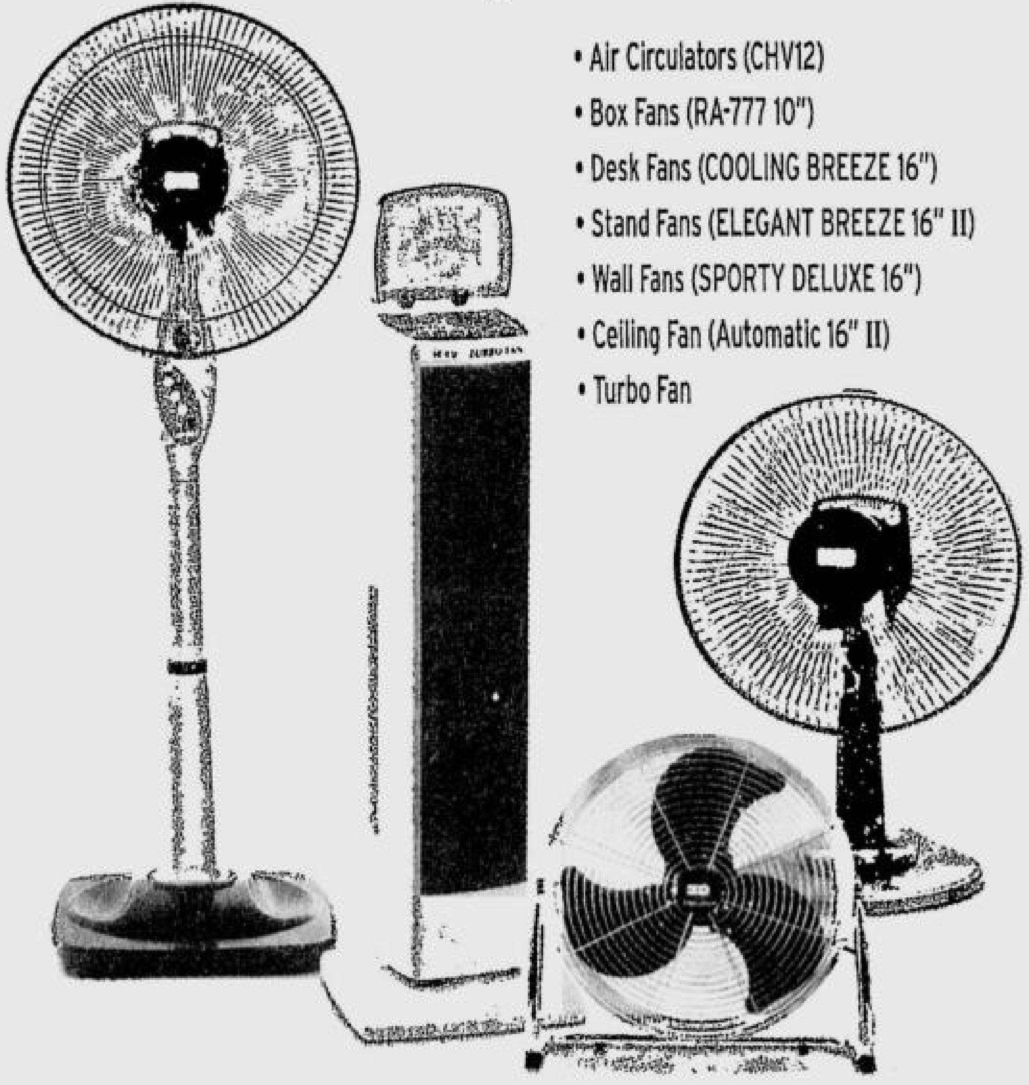

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Batanes candidate to become World Heritage site

BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya—Residents of Batanes have won their first battle against illegal fishing following a move to declare the country's northernmost province as a World Heritage site.

Dr. Florentino Hornedo, an Ivatan and United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization commissioner, will consult with Batanes officials next week on plans to boost the tourism potentials of the province and preserve its rich culture and tradition, Noli Gabilo, Batanes tourism promotions and marketing co-chair, said.

Gabilo was here last week during a regional tourism assembly to mark the 162nd founding anniversary celebration of Nueva Vizcaya dubbed Panagyaman (thanksgiving) Festival. "Because of the uniqueness of Ivatan culture, (the) physical appearance of our traditional houses, which do not resemble any house in the country, we hope we can be included in the list of World Heritage sites," he said.

But he warned proponents on the frequent poaching of Taiwanese fishermen in Batanes waters, saying the practice would eventually deplete the province's marine resources as fishing is the main source of livelihood among Ivatans.

He also expressed fear that Ivatan fishermen would resort to destructive forms of fishing due to the influence of Taiwanese fishermen, thus depleting their sea resources.

"It is on this problem that we like (the) Unesco to help us in going after Taiwanese poachers. We have to guard and protect our coastal areas because they are our vital resources for our cultural preservation," Gabilo said. *Ben Moses Ebreo, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

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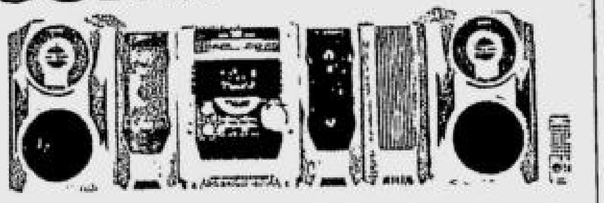
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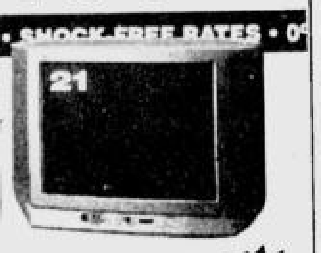
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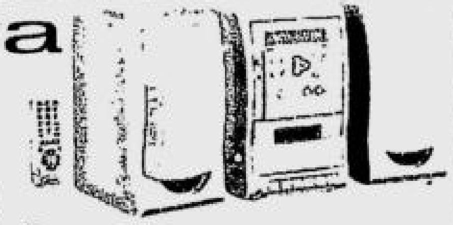
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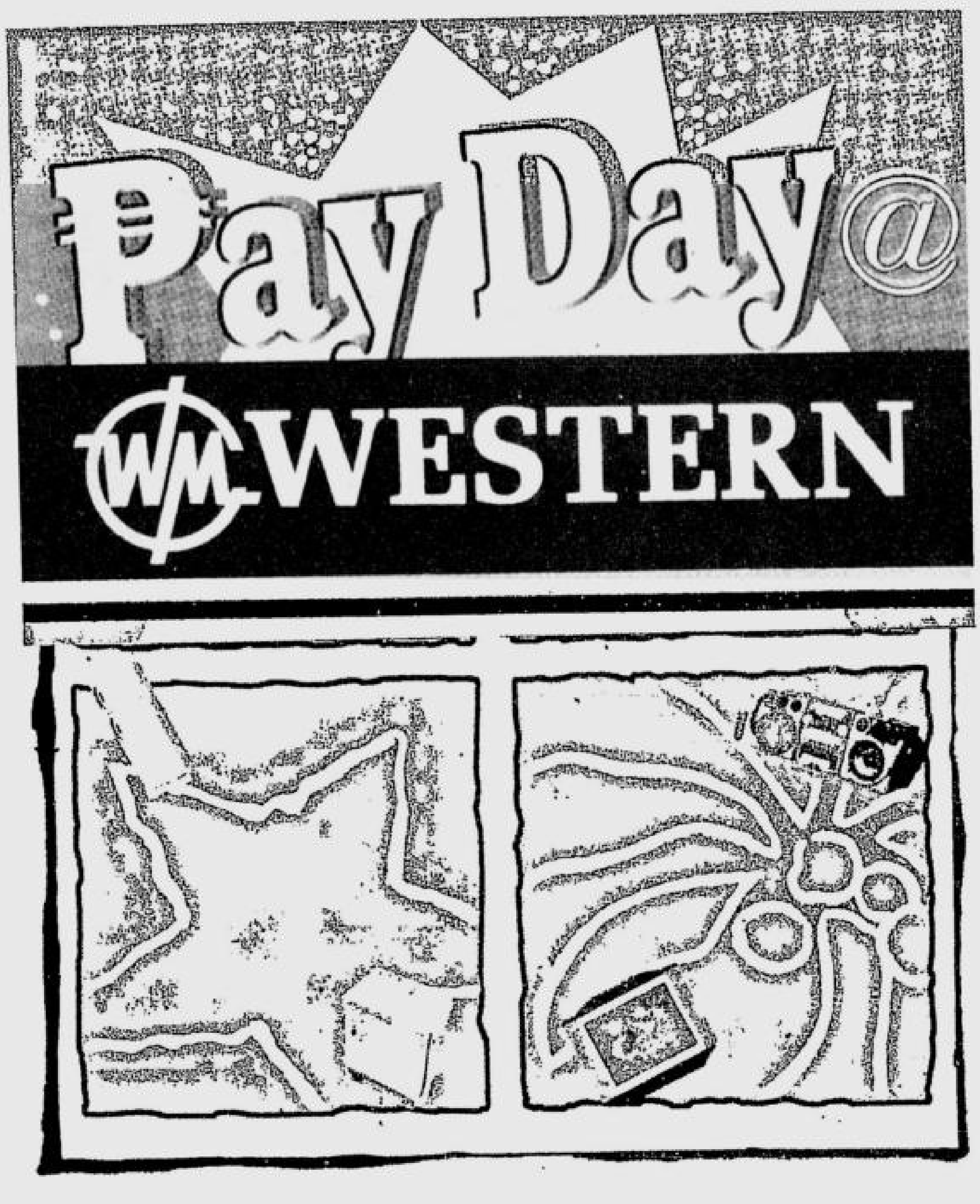

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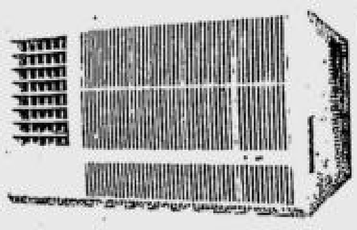
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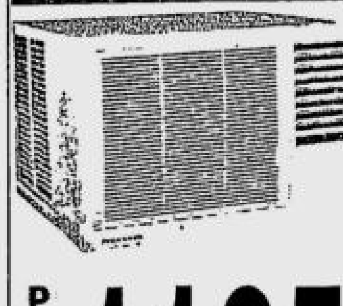
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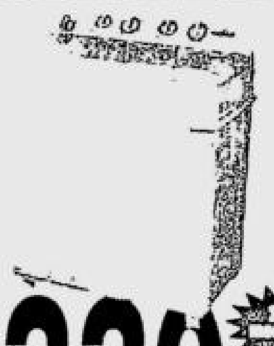
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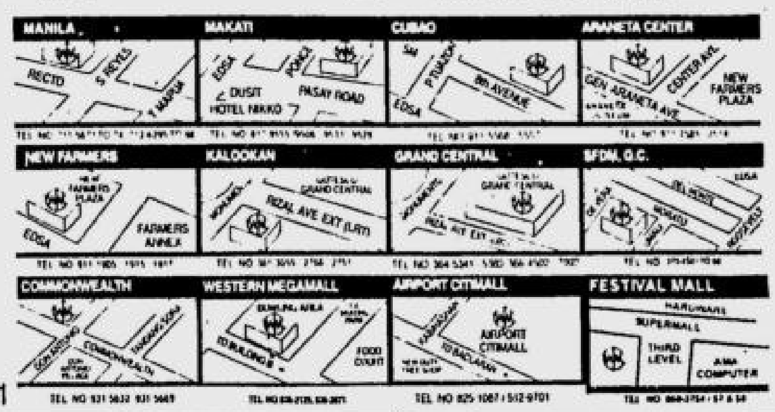

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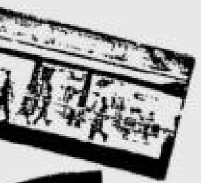
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From Sipadan to Palawan: Abu Sayyaf strikes again

(From page A1)

est hostages as human shields against renewed military operations?

And why, despite a massive military offensive launched against them in September last year, has none of the known leaders been killed or captured?

Before attempting to even superficially answer any of these questions, it may be helpful to remember that despite the almost formulaic strategy employed, there is an important difference between the Sipadan and the Palawan kidnappings.

By his own admission, Abu Ahmad Salayuddin (alias Abu Sabaya), spokesperson of the Basilan-based Abu Sayyaf, led the Palawan operation together with another commander, Isnilon Hapilon. It may be assumed that Sabaya is also the mastermind, or at least the lead planner of the kidnapping.

To this day, nobody has so frankly come forward to admit having led the kidnapping in Sipadan, and the identity of the mastermind has remained a mystery. There were many versions that made the rounds, each as believable as the other, but not one definitely pointed to any one person.

Custodians

But one significant similarity is that, as in Sipadan, Galib Andang (alias Commander Robot) and Mujib Susukan are again designated custodians of some of the hostages—that is, if Sabaya is to be believed.

Why did Sabaya and Khadafy Janjalani, named by at least two of the hostages as the "leader" of the group holding them, entrust half the number of the hostages to Andang and Susukan, who, along with a small number of hardcore followers, are reportedly on the run? And assuming that they indeed have some of the hostages, where would Andang and Susukan hide them?

Sabaya and Khadafy Janjalani are more identified with the Patikul (town) faction led by Raddulan Sahiron, although in earlier interviews, Andang admitted to a tactical alliance with both the Sabaya-Janjalani and Sahiron groups.

In fact, in one of the forays of the INQUIRER into the latter's camp in Bandang, Talipao, Susukan blithely introduced a group of heavily armed, sunburned men who had "just arrived" as "our brothers from Basilan."

But then Talipao, erstwhile stronghold of Andang and Susukan, is now virtually swarming with soldiers and can hardly offer, as in the Sipadan crisis, a safe hideout for the hostages and their watchers.

Neither can Patikul, Sahiron's territory, with several military detachments posted in strategic areas.

Andang-Susukan

Except for the so-called "one-armed bandit" Sahiron, the Abu Sayyaf leaders come in pairs, as in Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid—hand in glove, each useless without the other.

Andang and Susukan are cousins and lead the Talipao faction.

Andang is the loquacious one. He has a very mobile face with expressions ranging from a knowing smile to open-mouthed laughter, as quick to laugh as to rage.

Susukan is soft-spoken, a man of very few words, extremely restrained and difficult to fathom. But he decides, and Andang follows.

Andang was only a teenager when, burdened by childhood tragedies, he joined the Moro National Liberation Front. He had hoped to get back at the government, personified by the military, which he deemed responsible for the miseries brought upon his family.

He quit schooling after his first year in high school.

Susukan is one of three sons of famous MNLF *mujaheedin* Susukan Agga.

The foreign-trained Agga was a brilliant explosives expert, acclaimed as responsible for planting the mines that disabled several "Sikatuna" armored personnel carriers during the mid-1970s war between the government and the MNLF.

Agga was killed in an encounter with the military.

Orphaned at a young age, Susukan, even while studying at the Notre Dame of Jolo high school, vowed to avenge his father's death on men in uniform.

He lost his youngest brother Jawawi last month in a shootout with MNLF Army integrees in Barangay Asturias in Jolo.

Sabaya-Janjalani

Sabaya and Khadafy Janjalani are the Basilan counterparts of Andang and Susukan—one talks and the other thinks, but only as far as public perception goes.

Despite his rambunctiousness and classic bandit-leader stance, Sabaya is actually a civil engineer, married to a registered nurse. He worked for some years in the Middle East.

Khadafy assumed the leadership of the Basilan faction upon the death of his elder brother Abubakar, known co-founder of the Abu Sayyaf.

Abu Pula Jumdail and Nadzmi Sahadulla (alias Commander Global) are both natives of Karawan in Indanan municipality.

Jumdail, known more popularly among the Abu Sayyaf as "Dr. Abu Pula," is a paramedic who used to work with the Department of Health.

Sahadulla, who studied at the A.E. Colleges in Zamboanga City, is a member of the Beta Sigma fraternity and is the acknowledged "intellectual" among the known Abu Sayyaf leaders. A wide reader, he is very articulate in the English language and writes eloquently in an almost classic script.

Although known as a religious fundamentalist, Sahadulla is nevertheless abreast with developments. Once he asked an acquaintance to bring him a copy of Sun Tzu's "Art of War," which, according to reports, he finished reading in two days.

Sahiron, the loner among them, is a rather shadowy figure. There are only two or three photographs of him available.

A grizzled MNLF fighter, he lost his right arm in a clash with the military in the 1970s. Despite the lost limb, he is feared and obeyed by his followers.

He lost his wife during a skirmish in Kanindus, Patikul, last February.

Islands and islets

Around the main island of Jolo—the length of which, some 70 kilometers, runs from east to west—are a number of smaller islands and islets, eight of them municipalities.

Tongkil, located almost halfway between Jolo and the Zamboanga peninsula, is a group of 14 islands; Panglima Tahil (Marunggas), nearest the mainland to the north, is a cluster of seven islands; the Pangutaran group on the northeast is composed of 16.

The twin islands of Lugus and Tapul, almost touching each other on the southeast, have an adjacent island, Kabinga-an, which is famous as the birthplace of MNLF chair Nur Misuari and is connected by an expanse of marshland to two islets.

Farther to the south is another pair of island towns, Siasi and Pandami, welded together at one point like Siamese twins, with five islets and four islands of marshland around them.

Finally, nestled in a bay-like curve formed by the coastlines of Talipao, Panglima Estino and Kalingalan Caluang, is another island municipality, Pata, surrounded by six islets.

According to a police source, the island of Pata is the most likely place for the Abu Sayyaf, or at least the group of Andang and Susukan, to bring the hostages.

A few minutes away by fast craft from the main island, Pata is accessible from any of the coastal towns like Indanan, the stronghold of Jumdail and Sahadulla, and Maimbung, Talipao, Panglima Estino, Kalingalan Caluang and even Luuk, from where American hostage Jeffrey Schilling was rescued.

So, would the island of Pata signify "game over"? Not very likely.

Infamous as the village where hundreds were killed in 1981 by the Marcos military in what is remembered as the Pata Massacre, it has a history of *parang sabil*, a cultural tradition dear to the heart of Tausug warriors, which the two leaders and their followers wish to think of themselves.

When, at one time, the INQUIRER brought up the possibility of "coming out in the open" to Andang and Susukan, the two vehemently said they would most certainly prefer to end their adventures as *parang sabil*.

To them, surrender was out of the question.

(The author is INQUIRER correspondent Noralyn Mustafa based in Jolo, Sulu. She was forced to evacuate to Zamboanga City during the burning of her native Jolo in the 1970s. She studied at the University of the Philippines and was coordinator for the Institute of Cultural Studies at the Ateneo de Zamboanga. She decided to return to Jolo months after she joined the INQUIRER in 1994. Last year, she extensively covered the Sipadan hostage crisis.—Eds.)

Recto drops to 13th . . .

(From page A1)

the counting of the COCs from vote-rich Lanao del Sur and Maguindanao would seal the victory of Recto.

"As early as now, we can already declare victory for our candidates. We will win in the two provinces because we have the support of the Muslims there," Limcaoco said.

He said that people in Lanao del Sur and Maguindanao were grateful to the government for initiating peace with Moro rebels.

But former Immigration Commissioner Rufus Rodriguez, a PnM lawyer, said Enrile would wrest the 13th place from Recto after the votes from the three provinces were counted.

With 99 out of 102 COCs tallied, the PPC still had an 8-4-1 advantage over the PnM.

Independent Noli de Castro was still on top with nearly 16 million votes, while the eight from the PPC and four from the PnM remained in their positions in the last 48 hours.

In Lanao del Norte, whose certificate of canvass was the only one tabulated yesterday, the second to 10th positions were occupied by PnM candidates. Only Sergio Osmeña III from the PPC was in the Magic 13, while De Castro was at No. 1.

The Comelec en banc, acting as the National Board of Canvassers, issued a resolution slashing 79,129 votes padded in favor of Recto in six towns in Zamboanga del Norte and 10 towns in Tawi-Tawi.

The resolution also ordered the exclusion of the votes for all the senatorial candidates in Palimbang town in Sultan Kudarat.

Recto got 15,076 votes from the town, but these could not be immediately deducted from the tally yesterday because the exact number of votes for all other candidates were not made available to the media.

Rodriguez, counsel for former first lady Loi Ejercito, noted that the rest of the candidates, including De Castro, got only 1,000 to 2,500 votes in Palimbang.

Rodriguez also pointed out vote padding in favor of Recto in Tawi-Tawi.

Rodriguez said that on Turtle Island in Tawi-Tawi, Recto got 88 votes but the certificate of canvass for the province reflected 1,088 votes for him.

"That means 1,000 turtles voted for Recto in Turtle Island," Rodriguez said.

In a resolution, the NBC ordered the shaving of 18,000 votes, which were padded to Recto's votes in the towns of Mutia, Pinan, Sergio Osmeña, Gugod, Tagpilisan and Kalawit in Zamboanga del Norte.

Figures showed that in Mutia, 850 votes for Recto were reflected in the COC as 3,850.

The NBC also reduced the number of votes for Panfilo Lacson in Pateros by 100,000 to correct the insertion of the number "1" before his actual votes of 10,617.

The PPC said the PnM's tactic was to project Recto as occupying the last place and to claim massive cheating by the PPC to condition the minds of the public that Recto won by cheating.

"PnM lawyers claim the remaining uncanvassed provinces are their bailiwicks to give the impression that if Recto win he did it by cheating. But Lanao del Norte and Maguindanao are expected to deliver huge margins for the PPC," Recto's campaign operations chief Dave Torres said.

With a report from Armand Nocum

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Big US naval force arrives

(From page A1)

kilometers northwest of Manila for the large-scale maneuvers.

The 440-foot-long landing supply ship USS Rushmore, designed to transport Marines and amphibious vessels, was to arrive later Thursday.

The 4,000-ton USS Curts is an Oliver Hazard Perry class frigate commissioned in 1983 and equipped with advanced radar and 76mm guns designed to escort and protect ship convoys.

The USS Wadsworth is a 2,050-ton Fletcher class frigate first launched in 1943.

Philippine military officials said the exercises would include eight Philippine Navy vessels and one P-3C Orion anti-submarine surveillance aircraft.

They said about 3,000 troops from both sides were to participate in the war games.

The joint Navy exercises will be the third here since the Philippine Senate approved in 1999 the controversial RP-US Visiting Forces Agreement allowing renewed large-scale joint exercises and US ship visits.

Last August, two teenage boys were killed during the first joint exercises when they found two grenades at a mining compound in Cebu where US Navy Seals and their Philippine counterparts held live-fire training.

One grenade exploded as the boys were trying to force it open, and the Philippine government subsequently tightened rules on live-fire exercises, including mandatory cleanup of firing sites daily instead of after the exercise period.

ARMY soldiers backed up by tanks guard the Basilan Provincial Capitol in Isabela. DENNIS SABANGAN

US help

The Armed Forces of the Philippines, which has been searching for 20 hostages abducted from the Dos Palmas resort on Sunday, has indicated willingness to accept any US offer for technical assistance.

In his press briefing, Adan said the US offer of assistance would only include exchanging of information and intelligence and would not involve lending of weapons or troops.

"On the equipment that we will use here, we still don't know at this point. That is still being discussed on a higher level," Adan said.

The US Embassy on Thursday also issued a statement, stressing it had not directly intervened in the hostage crisis.

"The US has not intervened in this matter. We remain in close contact with the government of the Philippines because three American citizens are involved," the statement said.

"We look to the government of the Philippines to secure the safe releases of the hostages," it added.

Presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao also clarified yesterday that the US offer of assistance on the hostage crisis was a "general offer of help extended to a friend."

"Right now, even the military feels that such help may not really be necessary as they feel they can handle the situation . . . The only problem is tracking down the Abu Sayyaf," Tiglao told newsmen.

Tiglao said the government was concerned that confusion might arise over the US offer of help and the upcoming RP-US military exercises.

National Security Adviser Roilo Golez also explained that the US offer of help extended by visiting US Congressman Robert Underwood to President Macapagal-Arroyo on Wednesday was just a "political statement."

This means, according to Golez, that Underwood merely vowed to work out any US assistance to the Philippines once he gets back to the United States.

"That (commitment) is still far off. But if the US Department of State made the statement, that would be different. This would mean that it was the president of the United States (who made the commitment)," he explained.

Misuari

Nur Misuari, governor of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, said he favored US assistance in resolving the hostage crisis.

Misuari said he hoped US expertise in fighting terrorism would help end the Abu Sayyaf's reign of terror in Mindanao.

"Our people have suffered so much from the Abu Sayyaf," Misuari said.

He also appealed to the bandits to free their hostages, turn themselves in and make amends for their evil ways as the Islamic community celebrates Maulidan Nabi (the Prophet Mohammad's birthday) on June 4.

The Moro Islamic Liberation Front, which is fighting for an independent Islamic state in Mindanao, has also denounced the Abu Sayyaf and vowed to help the government in its drive against the bandits.

In Davao City, however, Kilusang Mayo Uno secretary general Felix Irag said the United States would never offer anything without asking something in return.

The human rights group Karapatan said US intervention should serve as a warning to people's organizations that might oppose American interests in the country. *Reports from AP; AFP; Martin P. Marfil; Carlito Pablo; Rocky Nazareno; and Charlie C. Señase, Ayan C. Mellejor and Joel B. Escovilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Basilan folk worried by new hostage crisis

BY JIM GOMEZ

ISABELA, Basilan—The helicopter gunships roared in the air yesterday, joining the search operation for 20 people snatched from a beach resort by the Muslim extremists who use the rugged hills of the tiny islands in the South as home.

"If they bring those hostages here, it is possible the military would move in again." 60-year-old Dolores Fernando sighed as she tended her small shop and recalled last year's long kidnapping crisis that embarrassed Filipinos.

"Many will suffer, and they are always mostly civilians. We always just have to take care. We cannot do anything."

The mood in Isabela, capital of the island province of Basilan, is one of concerns as it is thrust unwillingly into the spotlight again.

Some local support remains for the Abu Sayyaf, which claims it is fighting for a separate Islamic state in the predominantly Roman Catholic nation that has a significant Muslim minority in the South.

Troops already have fanned out across Basilan after the Abu Sayyaf claimed Monday that it had split the 20 hostages it seized Sunday—including three Americans—into two groups and took them to Basilan and nearby Sulu province.

The military said yesterday it had set up a 10-boat cordon across a 100-kilometer-wide access channel to the islands in an effort to keep the guerrillas from reaching their strongholds—if they haven't still.

But there is little fear here. Clashes between government troops and the Abu Sayyaf guerrillas are likely to occur up in the mountains, which almost seem like a different country from here. The regular violence that plagues one of the poor country's poorest regions is a more pressing worry.

A couple of dozen residents milled around the body of a man who got into a fight at the pier and tried to snatch a rifle from a soldier, and was shot in the head by other troops from the military camp here.

Most people seemed almost oblivious to the midday death—they have seen it far too many times already.

"It's normal here," Basilan Gov. Wahab Akbar said matter-of-factly.

Two camouflaged tanks sit idle; Akbar said they were brought in for the May 14 elections. Balloting is a violent process here, where strong-arm tactics and other problems linger.

Brig Gen. Romeo Dominguez, one of the leaders of the search teams, said there had been reported sightings in both Basilan and Sulu that troops had been unable to confirm so far.

Soldiers confiscated 10 unlicensed rifles from residents of an island that's part of Basilan province. *AP*

Dos Palmas hostages reported in Basilan

(From page A1)

day, Adan said government troops were "confirming reports of recovered items (belonging to the hostages) in Basilan." He said the yet unidentified items were found in Saluping Island, a part of the province.

Adan also said the possibility of the Basilan landing appeared to have been bolstered by "reports of (local) politicians," whom he did not identify.

Despite this, however, Adan said the AFP could not yet say when it would initiate armed contact with the Abu Sayyaf.

"It's hard to make estimates," he said.

But in Zamboanga City, Philippine National Police Director General Leandro Mendoza dismissed reports of landings and sightings of the bandits and their hostages in Basilan and Sulu as "plain diversionary tactics."

Mendoza, who was in the city to oversee and assess the PNP's participation in the search and rescue operations, said the reports were intended to confuse government troops.

He also announced the formation of Task Force Mindanao, which would handle the tracking down and prosecution of those involved in the May 27 hostage taking.

"The idea here is, as soon as we get the warrant, the task force will conduct the manhunt," he said.

The supposed landings in Sulu and Basilan are consistent with the May 28 claim of Abu Sayyaf spokesperson Abu Sabaya that the 20 hostages had been divided into two groups of 10 each and taken separately to the two known strongholds of the bandits.

Sabaya also said his Basilan group was holding the three Americans and seven of the Filipinos, and the Sulu group of Galib Andang (alias Commander Robot) and Mujib Susukan, the 10 other Filipinos. The military launched land, sea and air operations immediately after the bandit raid on the Dos Palmas Resort in Palawan.

Mediators

In Malacañang, President Macapagal-Arroyo's spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao, said the government was open to the idea of designating mediators to convince Abu Sayyaf leaders to free the hostages.

Tiglao also confirmed that the Abu Sayyaf had apparently slipped through a military cordon in the Cagayan de Tawi-Tawi area.

"It's a disappointing development," he told reporters, adding that a radar set had met with some problems.

Tiglao said the government was still hoping that the hostages would be released through a military operation, as what happened in the case of American Jeffrey Schilling in April.

"And we are hoping that a particular task force or company . . . would be able to take out the hostages once the Abu Sayyaf is spotted," he said.

Asked if the government would negotiate once the bandit group was sighted, Tiglao said: "Our position stands, no ransom. But we are open to talking . . . if we can open lines of communication.

"But again, such lines of communication would only be to convince them to give up the hostages."

Tiglao clarified that the mediators would not be engaged in negotiations.

"In case it's necessary, you can't even call it a negotiating team—(just) somebody or some group who can convince them to give up the hostages," he said.

In an interview with Senate reporters, Sen. Gregorio Honasan called on the government to consider securing the help of Gov. Nur Misuari of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao in resolving the latest hostage crisis.

Honasan said that since the government was welcoming all the help it could get, including from the United States, it should give Misuari a try.

"It's time we seriously considered securing the help of local leaders," he said. "We should start testing just how strong is their influence in their areas."

Charges

Mendoza said Task Force Mindanao had gathered enough evidence against those behind the Dos Palmas kidnappings.

"We are ready to file charges against the abductors," he said, adding that Abu Sayyaf leaders Khadaffy Janjalani, Sabaya, Susukan and Andang were among those to be charged.

He said the warrants of arrest would be served when the subjects venture outside their lairs.

"They also go out . . . We might not be able to arrest them in their hideouts or in their camps. But surely we can get them because sometimes they are in Manila, sometimes here in Zamboanga City, or in Davao," Mendoza said.

Supt. Acmad Omar, ARMM police chief, yesterday said they were verifying a report that 11 of the hostages had been brought to Barangay Tangkatan in Talipao, Sulu.

He said a two-engine speedboat was recovered Wednesday morning in Tangkatan by Moro Islamic Liberation Front integrees and civilian volunteers.

However, Col. Jose Mendoza, spokesperson of the Southern Command media bureau, admitted that they had been receiving conflicting reports on sightings every hour.

"The only thing we can do is verify these reports," he said.

Mendoza also said they were not entertaining the idea of using vigilantes in tracking down the bandits. But he said they would welcome information from civilians.

Strength

Earlier in the day, Adan said the strength of the Abu Sayyaf in Sulu was estimated at 640 fighters with 208 firearms in Sulu, and 464 fighters with 177 firearms in Basilan.

At the second briefing yesterday, he conceded that the current hostage crisis was "more challenging" than that last year.

"Because of their money (earned from ransom payments), (the bandits) were able to buy new equipment, like high-speed boats," he said.

Adan belied reports circulating yesterday that the bandits and their hostages were still on board a boat somewhere in the vicinity of Cagayan de Tawi-Tawi Island.

The reports alleged that the bandits had rigged the boat with explosives, which they were supposed to detonate if government troops closed in on them.

Adan said he checked with the AFP Southern and Western Commands, and found that the reports were not true.

However, he said, troops recovered on Tuesday a 25-foot *kumpit* in the vicinity of Mapun Island near Cagayan de Tawi-Tawi.

The abandoned boat, which was out of fuel, had supposedly been used to haul the hostages, whom the bandits later transferred to two other boats.

It had three engines, each with a driving capacity of 200 horsepower.

The troops also supposedly recovered a bag tag, believed to be from one of the hostages, on Mapun.

Foreign journalists who covered the May 14 elections have started coming back to the country, this time to cover the latest hostage crisis.

A four-member crew of the ARD German TV flew in from Tokyo Tuesday night.

The International Press Center said it expected more correspondents of international TV and print to arrive in the coming days.

The President, however, has imposed a news blackout on the military offensive against the Abu Sayyaf hostage takers.

She specifically appealed to journalists not to venture to the islands of Sulu and Basilan or other areas where military operations were being undertaken, not to disclose the identities and backgrounds of the hostages, and not to give air time or newspaper space to the Abu Sayyaf leaders.

'Hands on' approach

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon said he was bothered by the President's "hands on" approach to the hostage crisis, and warned that this could boomerang on her.

Biazon, chair of the Senate committee on national security and defense, said Ms Macapagal should "put a little distance between her and the military" that was now moving against the Abu Sayyaf bandits.

Otherwise, he said, she might get much of the blame should something bad happen to the hostages.

But Senate President Aquilino Pimentel Jr. expressed a different view.

On the contrary, Pimentel said, the President had managed to maintain a "respectful distance from the actual (military) operations."

"I think she has given enough leeway to the field commanders to act accordingly," he said.

But Honasan said that in the continuing operations against the Abu Sayyaf, the government should give the PNP a bigger role to play, especially in information gathering and defense.

"(PNP personnel) should be the first-line defense because it is they who have direct contact with the population and are the ones operating in close coordination with the local government units," he said.

Honasan also said the hostage crisis was "a simple kidnapping-for-ransom problem" and should be treated as "a police matter." *With reports from Martin P. Marfil, Armand N. Nocum and TJ Burgonio*

Who wants to be a . . .

(From page A1)

around shades.

Janjalani and Sabaya head an Abu Sayyaf faction based in Basilan.

The military identified their confederates as Bakhal Hapilon, alias Abu; Omar Daluyan; Alhamzer Umbong; Jumadil Arad alias Abu Huraira; Nur Mohammad Umong; Hamsiraji Sali alias Jose Ramirez Burhis; Hamsiraji Radji Sali alias Jose Unding; and Mauran Ampul alias Tiger Look.

Galib Andang alias Commander Robot and his associate Mujib Susukan alias Mujib, on the other hand, lead the Abu Sayyaf faction in Sulu.

The two gained international notoriety last year when they seized more than two dozen hostages, including Western tourists, from the Malaysian resort of Sipadan. They were later ransomed off in Jolo for millions of dollars.

The military identified their confederates as Gumbahali Jumdail alias Dr Abu; Omar Sahibol; Abu Pula; Basnan Pael; Jawan Susukan; and Ismin Sabiro.

Former Abu Sayyaf founder Abdurajak Janjalani was killed after an informer tipped him off to authorities.

Brig. Gen. Edilberto Adan, AFP spokesperson, said the Abu Sayyaf had an estimated 1,100 members and 385 firearms.

According to Adan, there are fewer Abu Sayyaf bandits following a military operation against them that started last year.

He said government troops had clashed with the Abu Sayyaf 226 times from January 2000-May 2001, leaving 357 bandits and 54 soldiers dead.

In the clashes, the military recovered 668 firearms from the gunmen, Adan told a news conference.

Adan said that the gunmen had an estimated force of 640 men with 208 firearms in Jolo and nearby islands, and 464 members with 177 firearms in Basilan island.

The gunmen, self-styled Islamic independence fighters who want to set up a Muslim state in the southern third of the mainly Roman Catholic Philippines, beheaded two Filipino captives in Basilan during a kidnapping spree last year.

The current batch of captives includes American Christian missionary couple Richard and Gracia Burnham, of Kansas, who have worked in the Philippines since 1986, and Guillermo Sobero of California. *With a report from AFP*

Poachers, not kidnappers

(From page A1)

Police-Maritime Station 4A-04 who were patrolling the Palawan seas yesterday in search of the bandits who abducted 20 people from the Dos Palmas Resort failed to find any trace of the kidnappers.

Instead, they spotted and subsequently arrested, 34 Chinese fishermen on board two fishing vessels.

And although the maritime police was not able to rescue any of the Dos Palmas hostages, at least it was able to recover 150 pieces of *pawikan*, an endangered sea turtle species, from the Chinese-owned boats.

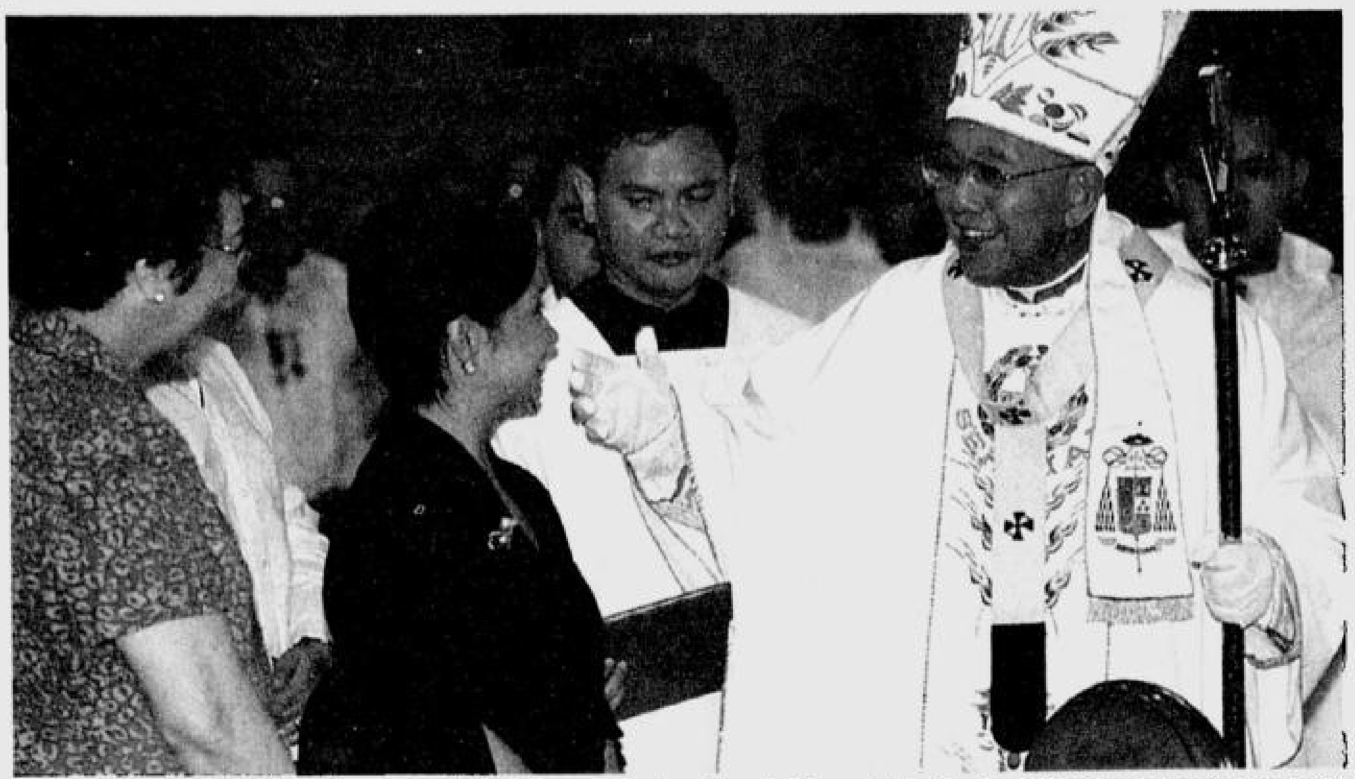
The PNP maritime police, based in Quezon, Palawan intercepted the boats about 1.5 nautical miles off Sitio Taburi, Barangay Tagbita, Rizal, Palawan. The lawmen were conducting patrol operations in the vicinity of Brooke's Point, Rizal and Quezon.

The five-man team composed of SPO3 Marcelino B. Maliban, SPO3 Vivencio Buncag and three civilian volunteers were reportedly trying to monitor possible landings of the Abu Sayyaf when it spotted the two Chinese vessels.

The group intercepted the boats said to be owned by a certain Ho Iben of Hylan Ching Hai, Hambon, Malaggay, China and piloted by Xu Shu Lian and Hu Hia Min. All crewmen are residents of Hylan Ching Hai, Hambon, Malaggay, China.

The suspects are now under the custody of the PNP-Maritime Station in Quezon town.

Authorities are preparing to file charges of violation of Section 87 (poaching) and Section 97 (unauthorized taking of rare and endangered species) of Republic Act 8550, or the Fisheries Code.



PRESIDENT Macapagal and former President Corazon Aquino attend a Mass celebrating the 25th year as cardinal of Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin. VAL HANDUMON

President prays for hostages

(From page A1)

silver jubilee of Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin's designation by Pope Paul VI as a cardinal.

Ms Macapagal, clad in black outfit, also prayed for the families of the hostages to keep them strong.

Among those who attended the 5 p.m. Mass in the Manila Cathedral were former Presidents Corazon Aquino and Fidel Ramos, Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr., Senate President Aquilino Pimentel Jr., Sen. Franklin Drilon, Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo, Interior Secretary Jose Lina and other justices of the Supreme Court.

"Let us surrender . . . the Dos Palmas hostages to the most holy will of our Heavenly Father. We know that it is only God who can truly protect them from harm," the President said.

"Let us beg him to surround them with His angels and saints . . . strengthen their bodies and souls, keep them in good health, calm their hearts, make sure they have enough to eat and drink. Let us beg him to stay with each of them that they may never lose hope," she said.

The President prayed that the Abu Sayyaf captors would be filled with the Holy Spirit, "so they may realize what's wrong" in what they did and prevent them from doing more evil.

"Let us ask him to weaken their resolve and to touch them with His love. Let us ask Him to quench the flames of greed in their hearts and thwart the plans of the masterminds," she said.

She also prayed for the government, the police and military and the hostages' families and friends.

"Let us beg Him never to allow him to despair and instead fill them with faith in Him. Let us beg him to accompany them in their desolation and comfort them with His presence. Let us beg them to help them forgive those who have wronged them," she said.

The President prayed to the Virgin Mary to "cover" the hostages and the people with her mantle of protection.

"As her frightened children, we run to her maternal care," she said.

The President hailed Sin as "one of the greatest Filipinos of the 20th and the 21st centuries and for being the prophet of our times."

She cited his role in the 1986 Edsa People Power revolt that ousted a dictator and the Edsa People Power II in January that toppled a President accused of massive corruption.

She said Sin's fight for moral ascendancy "remains fresh in the minds of this administration." She conveyed to him the gratitude of the Filipino people.

Msgr. Socrates Villegas, vicar general of the Archdiocese of Manila, described Sin as "our revolutionary Cardinal."

Villegas credited him for his leading role in revolutions in the country in his 25 years as leader of the Catholic Church in the country.

SEEING THE HAND OF GOD

An Open Letter to All Concerned For David M. Castro

WE ARE DAVID M. CASTRO'S SIX CHILDREN. Five of us are college graduates of UP Diliman and one of De La Salle University. Between the six of us and our spouses, we are blessed to have among us, three MBAs from The Wharton School, one with an MA in International Relations from the University of Pennsylvania, one with a Diploma in Hotel Management from Cesar Ritz Hotel Consult in Switzerland, one with a Diploma in Textile Design from the Parsons School of Design in New York, and one with a Master of Laws from Cornell University.

Our father was not an extremely wealthy man, but he put all his stakes on us and was willing to put the last cent he owned towards our education. And we would like to believe that his children had become all the better for it. On top of this, our parents raised us to respect the truth. And most importantly, they raised us to trust and put our faith in God.

THE FACTS

1. COMPLAINT DISMISSED. The false and derogatory accusations against David Castro, that he allegedly:

- took part in the sale of a fake gold-backed security, and;
- represented himself as a government official authorized to collect taxes for the Philippine government,

were based on a complaint-deposition signed by Ronald Henderson, FBI Special Agent. While Assistant US Attorney David Raskin previously approved this complaint for filing, the latter himself thereafter moved for the dismissal of this complaint-deposition against David Castro. On May 14, 2001, the complaint was DISMISSED by US Magistrate Judge Debra Freeman through USAO No. 2001N00870. David Castro never even appeared before the magistrate judge before whom the complaint-deposition was filed. (figure 1)

2. RECKLESS ALLEGATIONS. In addition to the false and baseless accusations mentioned above, newspaper reports separately alleged that David Castro was in possession of an "authentic gold certificate" which he took from the PCGG. *While this statement was later disclaimed by a senior PCGG official, we deplore the even more reckless and malicious reporting of this created and totally fabricated story. In addition, recent statements made by the same senior PCGG official that David Castro was indicted or that he agreed to testify for the prosecution are purely malicious and vicious lies!* We likewise deplore the quick and dismissive attitude and utter lack of concern of government officials to assist a Filipino citizen who has the fundamental right to be presumed innocent until proven guilty.

3. ADMISSION AND TREATMENT IN HOSPITAL. David Castro was admitted as an emergency patient on April 18, 2001 at the Mt. Sinai–NYU Downtown Hospital. Dr. Orlando Apiado, attending physician, issued a certification dated May 04, 2001 explaining David Castro's medical condition. (figure 2) In fact, a person whose business card said he was Consul Joseph Gerard B. Angeles of the Philippine Consulate in New York paid David Castro a visit at the NYU Downtown Hospital on April 23, a day after the story broke in the Philippines, as well as on May 9, and yet the government has never announced or admitted the confirmation that Castro was in the hospital from April 18. The Mt. Sinai–NYU Downtown Hospital also independently certified that David Castro was admitted on April 18, 2001 and was confined until and discharged on May 11, 2001. (figure 3) In the same certification, Ms. Diana Olivo, credit department staff, noted that the patient had applied for MedicAid. The hospital informed the family that this was necessary because *the FBI notified the hospital that David Castro was never under federal custody and it could not therefore be responsible for his hospital expenses.*

4. LETTER TO U.S. ATTORNEY GENERAL JOHN ASHCROFT. In reaction to his inclusion as a co-defendant, David Castro wrote a personal letter dated April 30, 2001 to US Attorney General John Ashcroft requesting the reevaluation of the federal rule of criminal procedure that allows the use of hearsay and false evidence in determining the existence of probable cause citing the oppressive effects of its use by federal law enforcement agencies, particularly the FBI, which violate the constitutional presumption of innocence and the equal protection clause.

5. DEPARTURE AND ARRIVAL. After his discharge from the NYU Downtown Hospital on May 11, 2001 and the dismissal of the complaint on May 14, 2001, David Castro left New York via JFK with his daughter, Vicky, on board NW 017/027 on May 17, 2001 and arrived in Manila close to midnight on May 18, 2001.

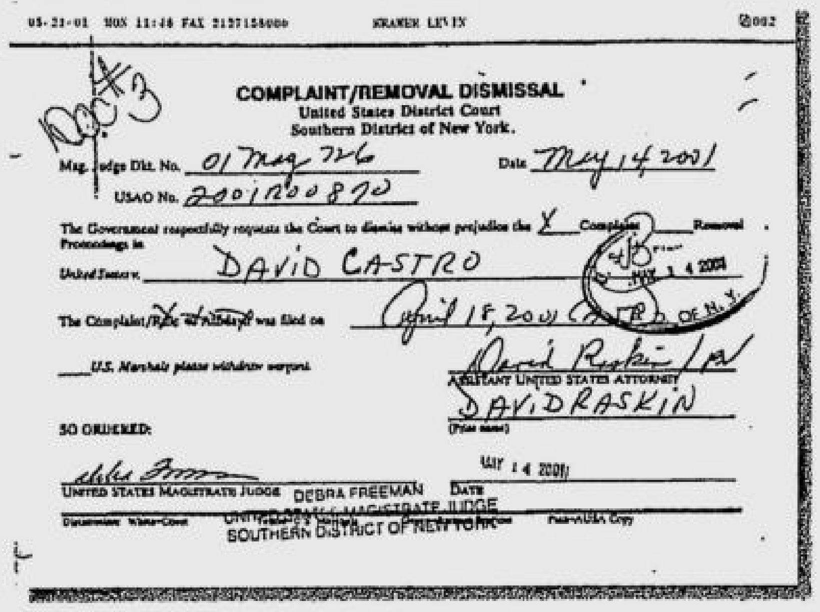
GOD'S HAND

In this episode, we share the thoughts of Fr. Manoling Francisco, SJ, who was among Dave Castro's first visitors at the hospital and who said in his homily at the Mass he celebrated in Dave Castro's room on April 29, that he saw the hand of Jesus in the US Marshal who enforced the law on needing a medical certification as to Dave Castro's fitness; that he saw His hand in Fernando D. Gonzales, Dave Castro's former law partner who now resides in New York and practices civil and labor rights law, whom our father called when he was admitted to the NYU Downtown Hospital while Dave Castro's immediate family members were all in Manila, and who also tirelessly supported the legal and personal efforts of Dave Castro while in New York; and that he saw God's hand in Dr. Orlando Apiado, the lead cardiologist at the NYU Downtown Hospital, who showed genuine concern for and gave excellent medical care to Dave Castro.

Inspired by these thoughts, our family has seen God's hand too—in the family members and long-time friends who have lent us their homes, shared their meals, or given their time in New York when we needed them most; in Chato Gonzales, who was totally supportive of Fernando Gonzales' generosity towards Dave Castro; in our having found Barry H. Berke (BA, 1986, *summa cum laude*, Duke University; JD, 1989, *cum laude*, Harvard Law School; Partner, Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankell LLP), whose name and law firm were culled through an independent search and not by referral; in the strength of spirit and goodness that surfaced among our family members at a time when government officials and the press treated Dave Castro's story so maliciously; in Fr. Manoling Francisco, SJ who took time off during the hectic end of his second semester towards the Doctorate in Theology he was taking in Boston just to be able to give comfort to his sister-in-law and her father, Dave Castro; in the Filipino nurses at the NYU Downtown Hospital, who cared for our father; in Diana Olivo of the hospital's credit department, who helped us apply for MedicAid on our father's behalf; and in the many, many prayers of friends and family who called, wrote or could not reach us when they wanted to—the Lord answered our prayers and His truth prevailed.

Our most sincere thanks go to those who showed us God's hand.

** This advertisement was paid for by the children and friends of Mr. David M. Castro.*



KRAMER LEVIN

COMPLAINT/REMOVAL DISMISSAL
United States District Court
Southern District of New York.

Mag. Judge Dkt. No. 01 Mag 726
Date May 14 2001
USAO No. 2001R00870

The Government respectfully requests the Court to dismiss without prejudice the X Complaint ___ Removal Proceedings in

United States v. DAVID CASTRO

The Complaint was filed on April 18, 2001

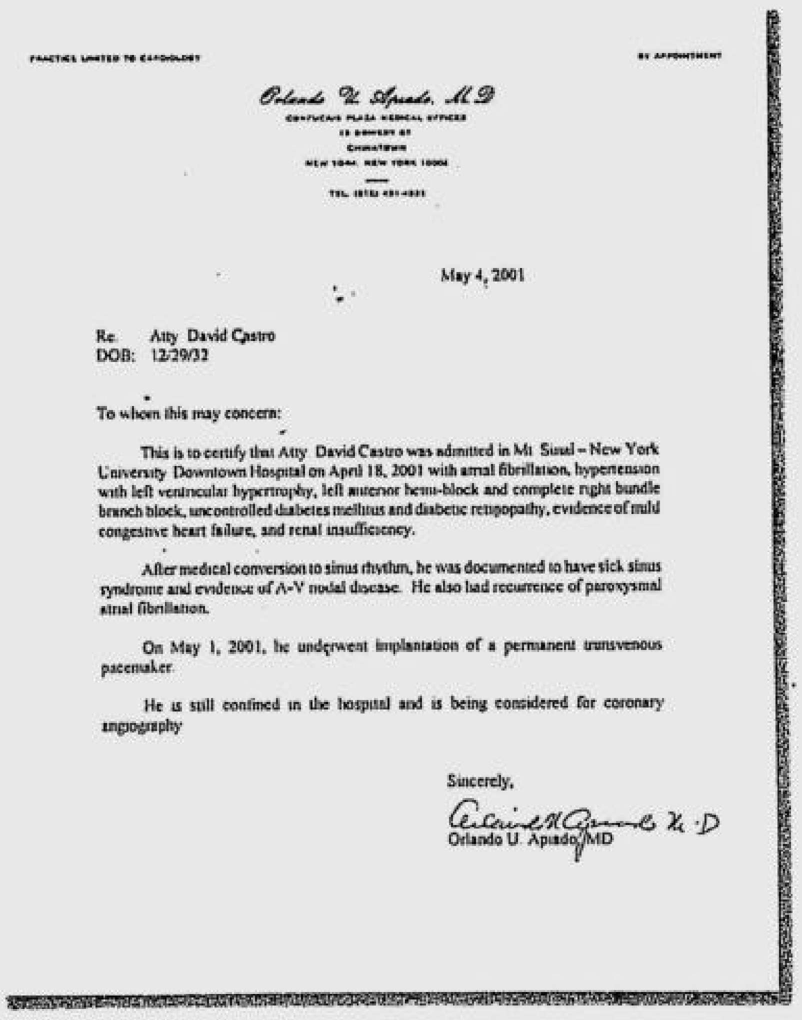
___ U.S. Marshals please withdraw warrant.

David Raskin
Assistant United States Attorney
DAVID RASKIN
(Print name)

SO ORDERED:

United States Magistrate Judge
DEBRA FREEMAN
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK
MAY 14 2001
Date

FIG 1. Certificate of Case Dismissal from the US District Court.



Orlando U. Apiado, M.D

May 4, 2001

Re: Atty David Castro
DOB: 12/29/32

To whom this may concern:

This is to certify that Atty David Castro was admitted in Mt Sinai – New York University Downtown Hospital on April 18, 2001 with atrial fibrillation, hypertension with left ventricular hypertrophy, left anterior hemi-block and complete right bundle branch block, uncontrolled diabetes mellitus and diabetic retinopathy, evidence of mild congestive heart failure, and renal insufficiency.

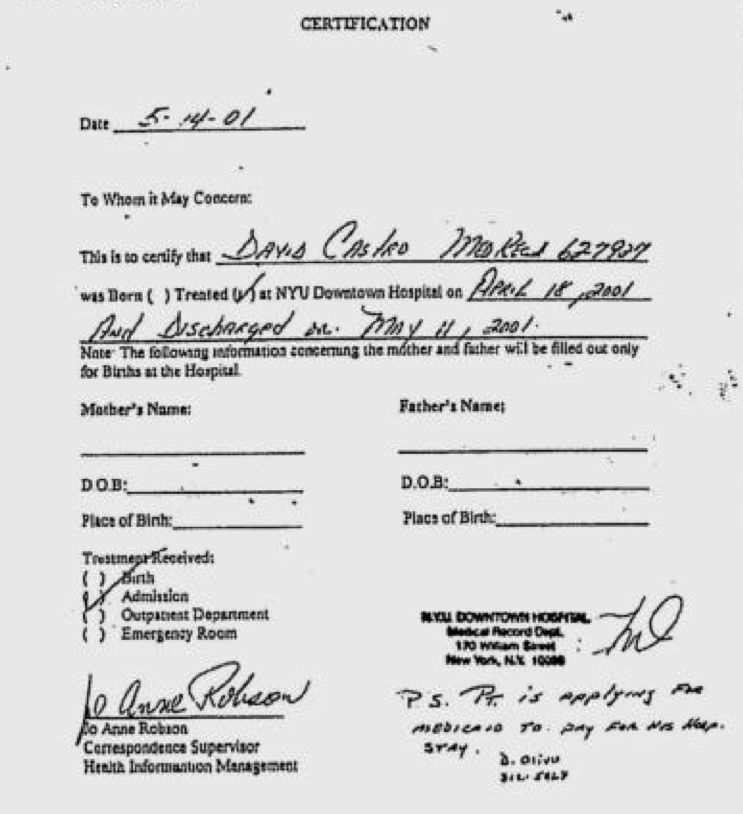
After medical conversion to sinus rhythm, he was documented to have sick sinus syndrome and evidence of A-V nodal disease. He also had recurrence of paroxysmal atrial fibrillation.

On May 1, 2001, he underwent implantation of a permanent transvenous pacemaker.

He is still confined in the hospital and is being considered for coronary angiography

Sincerely,
Orlando U. Apiado, MD

FIG 2. David Castro's doctor's certificate.



NYU DOWNTOWN HOSPITAL

170 WILLIAM STREET
NEW YORK, NY

CERTIFICATION

Date 5-14-01

To Whom it May Concern:

This is to certify that David Castro
was Born ( ) Treated (✓) at NYU Downtown Hospital on April 18, 2001
And Discharged on May 11, 2001.

Note: The following information concerning the mother and father will be filled out only for Births at the Hospital.

Mother's Name: ______
D.O.B: ______
Place of Birth: ______

Father's Name: ______
D.O.B: ______
Place of Birth: ______

Treatment Received:
( ) Birth
(✓) Admission
( ) Outpatient Department
( ) Emergency Room

Jo Anne Robson
Jo Anne Robson
Correspondence Supervisor
Health Information Management

NYU DOWNTOWN HOSPITAL
Medical Record Dept.
170 William Street
New York, N.Y. 10038

P.S. Pt. is applying for medicaid to pay for his hosp. stay. D. Olivo

FIG 3. David Castro's Certificate of Admission at NYU Medical Center.

HISTORY REPEATS ITSELF

Chang loses to big-serving teener

CHANG (left) congratulates Roddick after their three-hour, 50-minute match. AP

PARIS — Watching his teenage opponent writhe with cramping during a five-set marathon at the French Open, Michael Chang had an eerie sensation of history repeating itself.

Only this time he lost.

"I didn't want to think about it too much," Chang said. "I wanted to stay focused, you know, concentrate."

Twelve years ago, Chang won an epic match against Ivan Lendl in the fourth round of the French Open, serving underhand against the No. 1 player when cramping nearly overwhelmed him.

He won that match after four hours and 37 minutes, then went on to become the youngest men's champion at Roland Garros at age 17 years and three months.

On Wednesday, Chang went down in a comparatively short three hours and 50 minutes to 18-year-old Andy Roddick, losing the second-round match 5-7, 6-3, 6-4, 6-7 (5), 7-5.

His opponent leapt in sudden jerks of pain between points, clutching his head and leaning on his racket as the cramping worsened in the dramatic final set.

For onlookers, the similarity between the two matches was uncanny.

Chang, now aged 29, begs to differ.

"I think with Ivan, it was just something that was so different," he said. "It has similarities definitely, but it was a little bit different at the same time.

"I don't know what else to say."

If Chang was trying hard not to remember his win over Lendl, Roddick thought of little else.

"That's one of my first memories of tennis, that match against Lendl," Roddick said after his victory. "It definitely crossed my mind. I thought that was pretty ironic."

"It was like a fairy tale."

Unlike Chang back in 1989, Roddick kept up his devastating serve throughout the match, taking a staggering 37 aces and 32 service winners.

"That serve really saved him," Chang said. "I had a lot of chances.

"Even when he was cramping, he was still able to bomb the serve."

Roddick was loudly jeered for throwing his racket down in frustration in the first set, but by the fifth the crowd was shouting "Andy! Andy!" as the teenager drew closer to victory.

After sealing the match, Roddick threw his baseball cap into the crowd, then ripped his shirt apart.

Roddick next faces sixth-seeded Lleyton Hewitt, who broke Russian qualifier Nikolay Davydenko eight times on his way to a 6-0, 6-1, 6-3 win in their second-round match.

Defending champion Gustavo Kuerten cruised to his second consecutive straight-set win Wednesday, eliminating Argentina's Agustin Calleri 6-4, 6-4, 6-4.

Despite the easy win, the top-seeded player wasn't impressed with his performance.

"I didn't play with the same intensity I played in the first match," the 24-year-old Brazilian complained, before explaining how he overcomes those rough patches.

"When I have a problem during a match, I try to think back and remember my great moments here," he said.

Kuerten won the title in 1997 as an outsider ranked 66th in the world, and again last year.

Chang was not the only former champion to exit the tournament Wednesday. Sergi Bruguera, who won the French in 1993 and 1994, retired from his second-round match blaming sinus problems. *AP*

Williams sisters out of doubles

PARIS--Sisters Venus and Serena Williams pulled out of the French Open doubles Wednesday, a title they won two years ago.

The fifth-seeded pair said they withdrew because Serena wanted to concentrate on her singles.

"I am looking forward to a successful French Open and want to focus all my energy toward doing the best that I can in the singles," Serena said.

However Venus may also have been unwilling to prolong her stay in Paris to play only doubles. She flew home to Florida Wednesday.

Seeded sixth in singles, Serena Williams defeated Sarah Pitkowski of France 6-2, 6-7 (4), 6-1 in her first-round match Tuesday. She was playing her first tournament since March.

Venus Williams, seeded No. 2 in the year's second Grand Slam tournament, was upset Monday by Austria's Barbara Schett 6-4, 6-4.

The Williams sisters play doubles only occasionally, but dominate when they do. They won the Australian Open in January and Wimbledon and the Olympics last year. In 1999, they won the US Open as well as the French Open. *AP*

Puerto netfest slated

CONFIDENT with the peace and order situation, the Southern Luzon age groupers take centerstage when the Puerto Princesa City Tennis Club hosts the Milo Junior Tennis Cup and Regional Workshop starting today.

Featured age groups are the boys' and girls' 18-under, 16-under, 14-under, 12-under and the unisex 10-under divisions in the Milo netfest organized by the Children's Tennis Workshop and supported by official outfitter Adidas and Sports Kids.

The nationwide Milo junior tennis development program also visits the Calapan City Tennis Club for the free beginners workshop coordinated with Jimmy Arabani, while the age group tournament is being organized by club president Bobby Castro.

"We are pleased to hold the Milo tennis tournament here in Puerto Princesa for the first time. This will surely boost our own junior tennis program," said Castro.

Jody, Jomari head Touring field

THE PHILIPPINE National Touring Car Championships resume this weekend in Subic with Caltex-Eclipse-Red Horse-Team Tom's drivers Jody Coseteng and Jomari Yllana hoping to duplicate their impressive showing in the previous leg in Batangas last month.

Coseteng topped the fourth round, while Yllana dominated the third round held on April 29 to move in strong contention for the overall title behind surprise leaders Nilo Pazcoguin of Tom's-Auto Trend and Miguel Ramirez of Petron-SRA.

"It's still anybody's race. But we have better chances now than in the previous four rounds," said Coseteng, who bagged the overall title last year.

Coseteng is running third overall with 35 points, only seven points behind Pazcoguin and one point behind Ramirez based on the 15-12-10-8-6 scoring system. He was disqualified in the first round held in Subic on April.

Yllana, whose team is also being supported by Caltex, Red Horse, Bilstein, Fujitsu-Ten, Llumar and Camspeed, is fourth with 27 points. The well-known movie/TV actor failed to compete in the first two rounds in Subic due to the untimely death of his father.

Rounding out the top 10 drivers are Kookie Ramirez of Petron-SRA, Ferdie Ong of Rota-Speedwelle, Mike Aguilar of Caltex, Dominic Bon of SRA, Benedict de la Cruz of Rota-Speedwelle and Tom Pastor of Team TEC.

Also expected to see action are Ricardo Loi of La Opera-Agip-GNC, Carlos Anton of MP Turbo, Mike Potenciano of MP Turbo, Carlo Pastor of Team TEC and Mon Lindo of MP Turbo.

Pasay cockpit hosts special 4-cock derby

MORE than 70 exciting fights are lined up in another special 4-cock derby at Pasay City Cockpit beginning at 7 tonight.

At stake in this event hosted by upcoming derbyist Toto Mencenares is a cash prize of P300,000. Entry fee is P10,000.

Included in the long list of participants are Robert So, Muroy Dolorico, Peping Suarez, Carding Ng, Danny Ty, Jet Fernando, Madlambayan brothers, Cito Manansala, Lito Roque, William Co and Lito Orillaza, among others.

Submission of entries is from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. and interested parties may contact 816-6750, 843-1890 and 843-1746.

Hackfights are also staged at Pasay City Cockpit every Sunday, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, where an average of 65 fights are held per day.

AFS tourney June 5

THE AFS 4-Cock Derby hosted by Alan and Co. at the Roligon Mega Cockpit has been reset from June 2 to June 5, Tuesday.

This was announced by Danny (Showdown) Ty, new manager of the famous Roligon in Parañaque City.

With his slogan "Bilis laban, bilis bayad," Ty promises non-stop fights which start at exactly 6 p.m.

Submission of weights between 1.8 kg and 2.4 kg is on the day of the derby from 6 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Ty also announced the schedule of the next derbies: June 9—BJ-INC 4-Cock Derby hosted by Dennis del Rosario, June 16—Malvar Cockers 4-Cock Derby by Capt. Berto Lat, June 27—Small-time 4-Cock Derby by Abo Centeno and June 30—Black Manta 4-Cock Derby by Dante Eustaquio.

Nene bets post sweep

THE DREADED Thunderbird-Firefly IV of Big Dome owner Nene Araneta yesterday swept the three-cock elimination fights to lead the field in tonight's four-cock finals of the NCA 7-Cock Derby at the Araneta.

Three other entries also posted three consecutive wins, while one scored 2 ½ points and 10 others registered two victories to remain in the running. The three-pointers were Capitan IV of Tos Reyes and Bobby Fernandez, PBRJ Binangonan of Gov. Ito Ynares and Boyboy Roa and Binangonan Paul Talim of Marino Filart.

Early Cocker of the Year leaders Geran of Gerry Fevidal and Capitan III of upcoming Alan Tan were a letdown, scoring only a win each in three matches and allowing PBJR Binangonan and Thunderbird-Firefly IV to inch closer to the frontrunners. The Coty champion will be known after two more legs of the 15-leg National Cockers Association series and the much-awaited World Slasher 8-Cock Derby on June 18, 20 and 22. The next NCA 7-Cock Derby will be held on June 4-6, with Ito Ynares, Manny Kho and the NCA as hosts.

Saloon racing slated at Subic

THE ZED Gulf Oil MP Turbo Racing Team seeks a reprise of its prolific showing the last time around when it takes on the country's finest saloon drivers at the resumption of hostilities in the 2001 SVI Saloon Racing Championships at the SBMA-SVI Raceway in the Subic Bay Freeport this weekend.

ZED Gulf Oil MP Turbo team manager Mike Potenciano said the team and its supporters will trek to Subic in full force not only to race but to undertake team-building activities designed to foster camaraderie among the drivers, mechanics and their loyal supporters.

The ZED Gulf Oil MP Turbo team's other benefactors this season are BLTB Co., Outback Steakhouse, Dyno Max Car Shop, Goma King Trading, Hankook Batteries, AER Engine Rebuilders, Abante Newspaper, Universal Motor Corp. and Francisco Motor Corp.

Despite their creditable performance in the opening rounds, Potenciano believes that the team's drivers are capable of doing better.

RACING TIPS

AT SANTA ANA BY MR. 999

Race 1—1. Ocean Friend 2. Turbo Carera 3. Togsi's Ambition 4. Stately Emblem

Race 2—1. Sharon's Cookie 2. Cuadro de Alas 3. River Bandit

Race 3—1. Jamie's Princess 2. Justsaywhenjen 3. El Bulldog 4. Morning Glory

Race 4—1. Mina de Oro 2. Cyclone 3. Lucky Fil 4. Patutina 5. Grupo Grupo

Race 5—1. Shuttle's Magic 2. Strong Alphonse 3. Aringkingking 4. Fruite de Mer

Race 6—1. Down for Double 2. Altron 3. Diamond Buck 4. Chrissy Girl

Race 7—1. Venus 2. Forthefirsttime 3. Victoria Scarlet 4. Gifted Galloper 5. Big Kahuna

Race 8—1. Count Me In 2. Darth Vader 3. Silver Gray 4. Native Talent

Race 9—1. Padron Real 2. Sunrise 3. Grace and Fortune 4. Standout 5. Heart of Gold 6. Ace of Space

RP's Delasin, Rosales compete in US Open

TEEN golfing sensation Morgan Pressel tees off during a practice round at Pine Needles Golf Club. The 13-year-old Pressel will be the second youngest entry in the US Open history. REUTERS

WITH the biggest prize money ever in women's golf at stake, Dorothy Delasin and Jenny Rosales join Annika Sorenstam and the other superstars in the $2.5 million US Women's Open golf championship starting today in Southern Pines, North Carolina.

Focus will be on the red-hot Sorenstam and 13-year-old Morgan Pressel–who will become the second youngest competitor in US Open history–in the second major of the LPGA season to be played at the Pine Needles Lodge & Golf Club.

Sorenstam has dominated the LPGA in Tiger Woods-like fashion and will be challenging Karrie Webb's title-retention bid. Pressel joined one of the various qualifying events and made it, something the legendary Nancy Lopez failed to accomplish.

Delasin and Rosales didn't have to go through the qualifying. They made it on the basis of being on the Top 35 of the current money list and also for placing among the Top 20 in last year's US Open.

Jenny, who has been struggling lately, tees off early at 8:40 in the company of Catriona Matthew and Jenna Daniels. But after placing 12th last year, Rosales is expected to make her move in the middle of the season.

Dorothy, with winnings already past the $100,000 mark, gets going at 12:50 p.m. with Pat Hurst and Vicki Goetze Ackerman.

The main flight features Webb and former champions Juli Inkster and Laura Davies in a threesome.

Jong Arcano

Tiger eyes 3rd straight

DUBLIN, Ohio—Greg Norman celebrated his election to the World Golf Hall of Fame, while Jack Nicklaus kept busy being a good host and working on his new swing. Others gathered at the Memorial to remember Payne Stewart once again.

Tiger Woods, meanwhile, casually offered this thought to anyone that doesn't think he will win a third straight Memorial or a fifth straight major—his game might be as frighteningly good as ever.

"I really feel like I'm swinging the club the way I know I can," Woods said. "It's fun to be able to step up there and hit shots that I haven't hit in a while."

In a tournament conceived by Nicklaus to remember the best of golf, Wednesday was a day for reminiscing by Norman about his career and by those who knew Stewart best about his life.

The talk seldom strayed far from Woods, though, who tees off Thursday morning with a chance to do something even he hasn't done before on the PGA Tour—win a tournament for a third year in a row.

Delinquent NSAs

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

IT'S just beyond my comprehension how some National Sports Associations can be so consistently delinquent in their liquidation of public funds given by the Philippine Sports Commission.

Ideally, it should take at least two weeks or at the most two months to compile the receipts and documents and complete an honest-to-goodness accounting of government money spent by these NSAs in their various activities, including their numerous "junkets" abroad. But would you believe that 31 NSAs have not settled their accounts for the last many years, to be exact, from July 1, 1998 to April 30, 2001?

I don't know the reason behind this long delayed accounting of government money, but it raised the question: Are these NSAs hiding something from the PSC, in particular the taxpayers, who are paying for their own good but also for the good of their athletes.

PSC Chair Carlos "Butch" Tuason said he was giving these delinquent NSAs until June 15 to settle their accounts or he would be constrained to endorse the matter to the Office of the Solicitor General for appropriate legal action. "I want these associations to know that they will be held answerable to the law for not liquidating government money."

With the exception of the bowling, taekwondo and fencing associations, 31 NSAs have to account for roughly P25 million they received from the government agency. Among other unsettled obligations, the PSC resident auditor said P24,888,295 is still unaccounted for starting July 1, 1998. And because of these outstanding balances, these NSAs are no longer entitled to receive PSC assistance.

* * *

BLITZ 3: BOON OR BANE? This year's edition of the Metropolitan Basketball Association could be facing another stormy season with the introduction of the Blitz 3 awarded to a team which scores a basket within the first four seconds of its ball possession anywhere on the floor. While Blitz 3 will definitely hasten the game, still some people have misgivings about it, saying it could set the stage for more controversies which the fledgling league could ill afford.

Nash Racela, head coach of the Batangas Blades, said, "If the Blitz 3 rule is applied in the entirety of the match especially during crunch time, it would certainly change the complexion of the game." For example, a team that is leading by two points, with barely three seconds left in a hard-thought championship game, may still lose the title if the opposing side scores a basket within the period allowed by the Blitz 3 rule. If this happens, one could just imagine the ensuing bedlam from disgruntled fans, not to mention the hotheads among them. Still, I'm keeping my fingers crossed that there would be no ugly incidents to mar the MBA games this year, hoping that tournament officials have learned their lessons well, with the safety and security of their fans and players first and foremost in their minds.

* * *

SPORTS TRIVIA. To prepare for the 1978 world Basketball Championship which the country was hosting, the Basketball Association of the Philippines sent the national team to Beijing to take part in a star-studded invitational tournament. Because the Philippines was not represented by the leading players of the land who had transferred to the professional Philippine Basketball Association, the Filipinos finished last in the tourney. The Beijing bash featured cage powers like Yugoslavia, Mexico, the Netherlands, North Korea, Romania and host China. Prior to the Chinese campaign, the nationals played tune-up games against an American missionary team in several key cities of the country. Coach Nic Jorge's wards could only beat the Yankees twice in 10 games. On the World Basketball Championship, Jorge said: "Our chances of winning are practically nil." He was right, of course.

* * *

For inquiries, call fax/phone (044) 933-1214.

Tamaraws, Warriors triumph

UAAP teams Far Eastern University and University of the East mastered their respective rivals from the NCAA Wednesday at the Philsports Arena to arrange a showdown for the senior crown in the 7th Fr. Martin Cup invitational basketball tournament. The Tamaraws blasted the Jose Rizal Heavy Bombers, 79-68, while the Warriors whipped the San Sebastian Stags, 82-67, in lopsided knockout matches in the cagefest sponsored by Agfa, Photo Plus, Red Bull and SMART-Piltel.

SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor **EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA**, Assistant Editor

SPORTS ON TV COMPILED BY LORENZO MANGUIAT

TENNIS: WTA Italian Open Finals at 10 a.m. (r) on Star Sports
2001 French Open - Day 5 Elimination at 5 p.m. (r - tomorrow at 1 a.m.) on SkyCable 17
GOLF: PGA Kemper Insurance Open Highlights at 8 a.m. (r) on Star Sports
Inside the PGA Tour at 12 noon (r – 5 p.m.) on Star Sports
U.S. Women's Open Golf Championship Preview at 8 p.m. (r), First Round at 8:30 p.m. (r), Second Round tomorrow at 3 a.m. on ESPN
PGA Memorial Tournament, First Round at 10 p.m. on Star Sports

Tiny gets 30-day reprieve

By June Navarro

QUINTELIANO "Tiny" Literal and his Basketball Association of the Philippines got a 30-day reprieve from being displaced after the Philippine Sports Commission yesterday decided to lift the eviction notice it sent on Tuesday.

Chair Carlos Tuason said the PSC acted on the recommendation of the Office of the Government Corporate Counsel to extend the stay of Literal's group at the BAP office inside the PSC administration building at the Rizal Memorial Complex.

Tuason said Graham Lim, secretary general of Literal's BAP, wrote a letter to OGCC chief Amado Valdez and cited the Asian Universities Basketball Championship next week as the prime reason for keeping the office.

"The OGCC recommended that Literal's group should be given an extension," said Tuason. "The PSC is simply implementing the OGCC recommendation in order to be consistent."

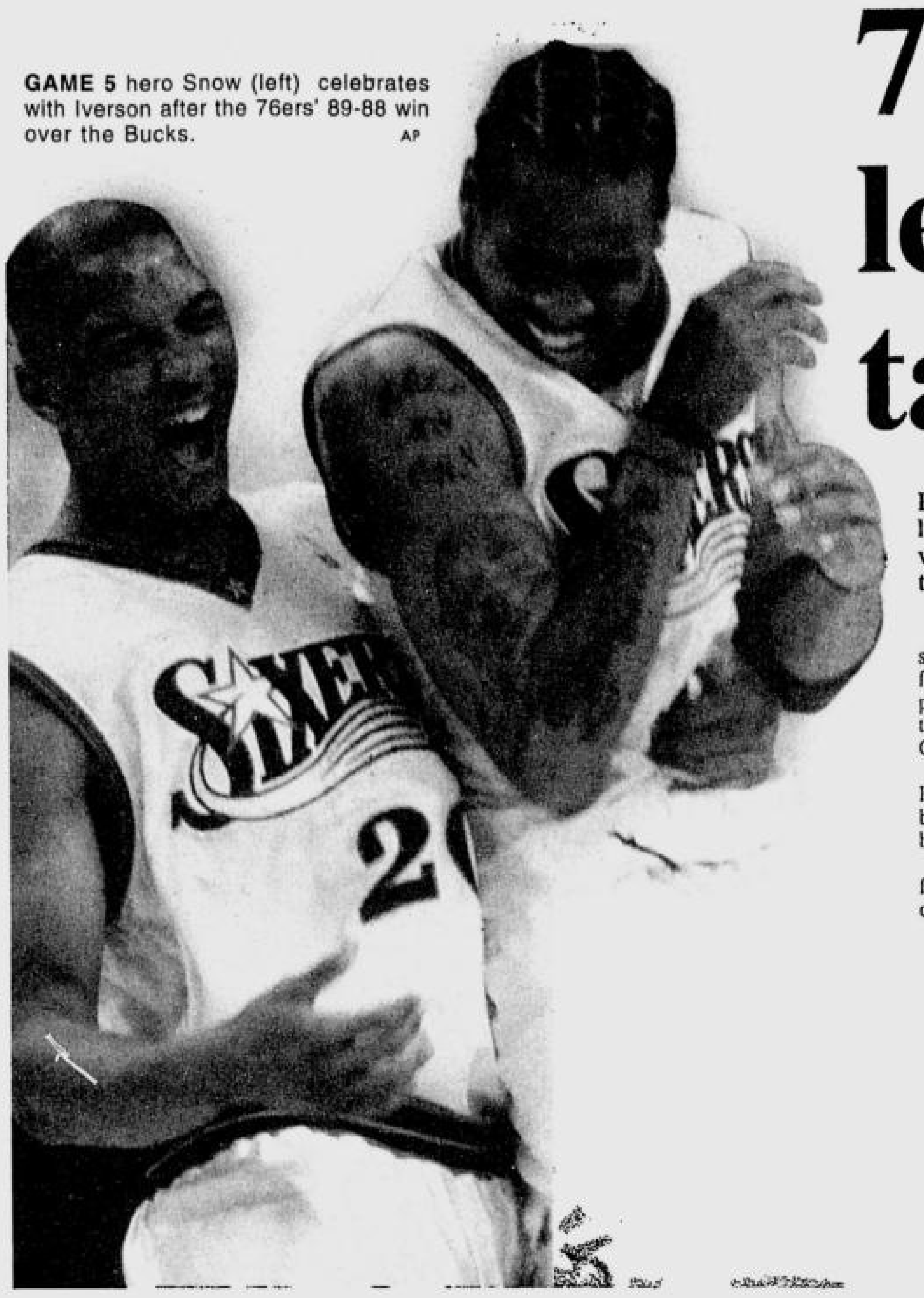
The PSC issued an eviction notice Tuesday, taking cognizance of the OGCC's suggestion of giving Literal and his associates until yesterday to vacate the premises until the BAP had sworn in its new set of officers.

What followed was the filing of a temporary restraining order in a Manila court, questioning the PSC's move and praying that Literal's faction keep its office before and after the BAP election on June 7.

In another development, members of the 500-strong Philippine Amateur Athletic Federation yesterday vowed to shun politics and refrain from endorsing sports personalities who have a penchant for using athletes for their own interests.

In a one-page manifesto, PAAFI president Nelia Sy outlined the athletes' stand on the ongoing crisis in the sporting community and the perpetuation of camaraderie and unity among athletes in the national pool.

"We declare our stance to make this federation a single venue where we can express our concerns and find answers for the interest and welfare of all athletes in the pool," the statement said.



GAME 5 hero Snow (left) celebrates with Iverson after the 76ers' 89-88 win over the Bucks. AP

76ers seize 3-2 lead as Snow takes charge

PHILADELPHIA—After finding out earlier in the day that his sprained ankle was actually broken, Eric Snow decided to take a huge risk and play anyway.

Without him, the 76ers couldn't have won.

Snow, obviously limping at times, hit two jump shots in the final two minutes for Philadelphia's final four points and the 76ers overcame another poor shooting performance by Allen Iverson to beat the Milwaukee Bucks, 89-88, Wednesday night in Game 5 of the Eastern Conference finals.

The victory wasn't assured until Glenn Robinson missed a 10-footer (3-meter) from the baseline and Ray Allen missed a tip-in at the buzzer.

Iverson finished just 5-for-27, but Snow shot 7-for-9 in scoring 18 points as the 76ers added another chapter to their season-long story of overcoming whatever problems might occur.

The series resumes Friday night (Saturday morning in Manila) at Milwaukee, where the 76ers will try to advance and face the Los Angeles Lakers in the NBA Finals.

Dikembe Mutombo of the 76ers had his best game of the series with 21 points, 13 rebounds and 9-for-9 shooting from the foul line, while Aaron McKie added 15 points and had four of Philadelphia's 13 steals.

The Sixers, who trailed by as many as 16 points in the first half, needed all they could get from those two as Iverson struggled from the field for the sixth straight game. Iverson missed his first seven shots, nine in a row later and his final three of the game.

Robinson had 22 points, Allen added 20 and Sam Cassell had 18 for the Bucks, who allowed the 76ers to have two four-point possessions and one five-point possession by picking up two untimely flagrant fouls and one technical foul.

Those 13 points ended up being huge for the 76ers, who shot just 37 percent from the field and turned the ball over 14 times.

The Bucks led throughout the first half but lost their edge when Cassell picked up a technical foul and Robinson was charged with a flagrant foul in the third quarter.

The 76ers scored four straight points from the line on both calls, then took an 85-82 lead with 3:49 left on a five-point possession as Tim Thomas flagrantly fouled Tyrone Hill, who made both free throws, and McKie converted an offensive rebound and drew Ervin Johnson's sixth foul.

Milwaukee scored the next four points before Snow hit a wide-open jumper from 15 feet. *AP*

Malone to Hall of Fame

SPRINGFIELD, Massachusetts— Moses Malone, among the first to go straight from high school to the pros, and college coaches Mike Krzyzewski and John Chaney are joining the Basketball Hall of Fame.

The three—one of the smallest groups in years—will be inducted Oct. 5, Hall of Fame President John Doleva said Wednesday.

Malone, among the most dominating centers in the game, jumped from Petersburg (Virginia) High School to the Utah Stars of the American Basketball Association in 1974 at the age of 19. He went on to play 21 years in the ABA and NBA. *AP*

Slashers' artillery fully loaded

THE NEGROS Slashers' artillery will be fully loaded when the Metropolitan Basketball Association resumes with the First Phase on June 3.

Already formidable offense-wise, the Slashers gained more firepower with the acquisition of long-range bombers Jomar Tierra, Patrick Benedicto and Dino Aldeguer.

Tierra, a 6-foot member of the Philippine team which ruled the Southeast Asia Basketball Association men's championship, was once the MBA's three-point king while competing for the Davao Eagles.

The 6-foot-3 Benedicto last saw action for Pasig-Rizal before he suffered an ACL injury that sidelined him throughout the 2000 MBA season.

Aldeguer, a 5-foot-10 former La Salle Green Archer, adds spunk and hustle to the backcourt.

"Youth and firepower will be our main weapon this season," said Negros coach Robert Sison, who believes that the absence of a legitimate center won't be a hindrance to their bid for the national title they lost to the San Juan Knights last year.

John Ferriols, another national player and former MVP, proved that he can tender the boards at 6-foot-4, but is really a natural power forward.

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Ana Freezers gains twice-to-beat edge

By Dennis U. Eroa

RONALD "The Saint" Tubid ended a thriller with a monstrous dunk, lifting Ana Freezers to a stunning 73-70 victory over defending champion Welcoat Paints last night in the PBL Chairman's Cup at the Makati Coliseum.

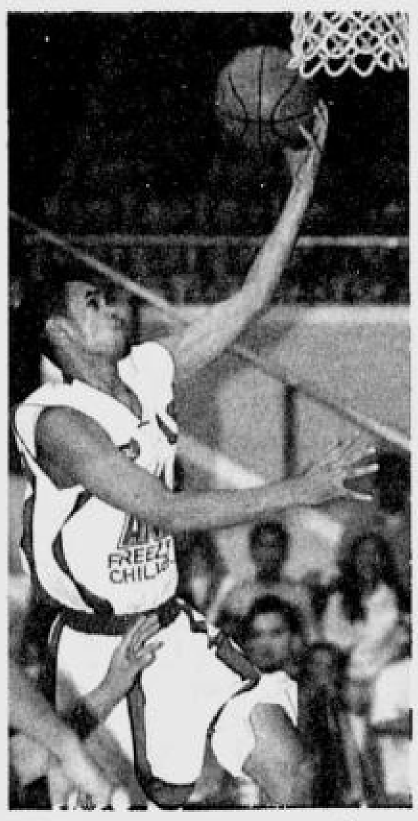
The high-leaping Ilonggo broke Welcoat's crucial play with a steal off slotman Yancy de Ocampo and then zigzagged from court-to-court before silencing Ana's foes with a thunderous dunk which pegged the final score, 10.5 seconds left.

"I'm the happiest man on earth right now," said Ana mentor Rudy Mendoza. "My prayers are heard."

This was the first time since 1999 that the Freezer Kings (formerly Dr. J) had beaten the Paintmasters, who won the grand slam last year.

More important, it gave Ana (8-3) the twice-to-beat advantage against Welcoat (7-4) in the carryover semis.

Welcoat's doom was sealed when Jojo Manalo flubbed the first of his two gift shots off a foul by Roland Pascual, 1.9 seconds left. Originally, Manalo, who struggled all-night long, was awarded three charities but TV replays showed he was inside the two-point area when fouled.



TUBID scores with an easy layup.
ROMY HOMILLADA

Right from opening tip-off, Mendoza's charges shed their underdogs tag. Burly Jay Torres, Ariel de Castro and Dondon Mendoza shackled the 6-foot-8 De Ocampo, while Robin Mendoza, Ronald Pascual and Ariel Capus provided the points.

Earlier, Osaka Iridology whipped Hapee Toothpaste, 78-73.

In the PYBL, defending champion Boysen-MLQU and Regent Cheeseballs snared twice-to-beat privileges by downing their separate foes.

Boysen-MLQU, many-time National Intercollegiate champion, notched its third straight win in the quarterfinals by downing University of Assumption, 80-75. Regent blasted UP, 63-52.

The scores:

ANA 73—Pascual 19, Capus 14, D. Mendoza 13, Mendoza 10, Tubid 8, Artadi 2, De Castro 2, Vilar 0.

WELCOAT 70—Ritualo 23, De Ocampo 15, Manalo 11, Carmona 10, Tan 5, Cruz 2, Orfrecio 2, Tolentino 2, Encarnacion 0.

Quarters:19-20, 40-41, 61-55, 73-70.

Magallanes golfers sparkle

MAGALLANES came through with the most explosive scoring in the Alaxan Intervillage golf series thus far as it pooled a stirring 295-point output to turn the Makati sector tournament into its own private show at the Riviera golf complex in Cavite Tuesday.

So dominating were the Magallanes golfers that four of their players scored the maximum 38 points over a difficult Couples layout as the team closed out the 36-hole elims with a 558 aggregate, counting the 263 Stableford points it made at Wack Wack last month.

That was a whopping 16-point victory over Bel-Air which topped the first round with 268 but whose final round bid fizzled out in the face of Magallanes' blitz. It had a 274 and finished second with 542.

Wack Wack secured the third and last berth in the grand finals of the series sponsored by Alaxan and supported by BJ Marthel International, Mastercard, PinoyAuctions.com, ICTSI, STI College, Callaway and Odyssey, Pisanti golf wear, Menzi and Co. and 357 Boracay as it finished third with 380 after a 123.

Magallanes, Bel-Air and Wack Wack thus join the other top three finishers of the East (Greenhills 2, Greenhills 1 and Monte Vista) and North (Philam Homes, White Plains and Corinthian) elims in the Alaxan Grand Intervillage championship, another 36-hole duel slated in November.

In the individual competitions, Bel-Air's Mark Floro topped Group 2 with 37 points, while Emil Alviar Jr. (44) and Noel Legaspi (50), both of Magallanes, won the Group 3 and 4 honors, respectively.

The popular series resumes June 5 at the Riviera for the final round of the Alaxan Intervillage South for villages in Parañaque, Muntinlupa and Las Pinas.

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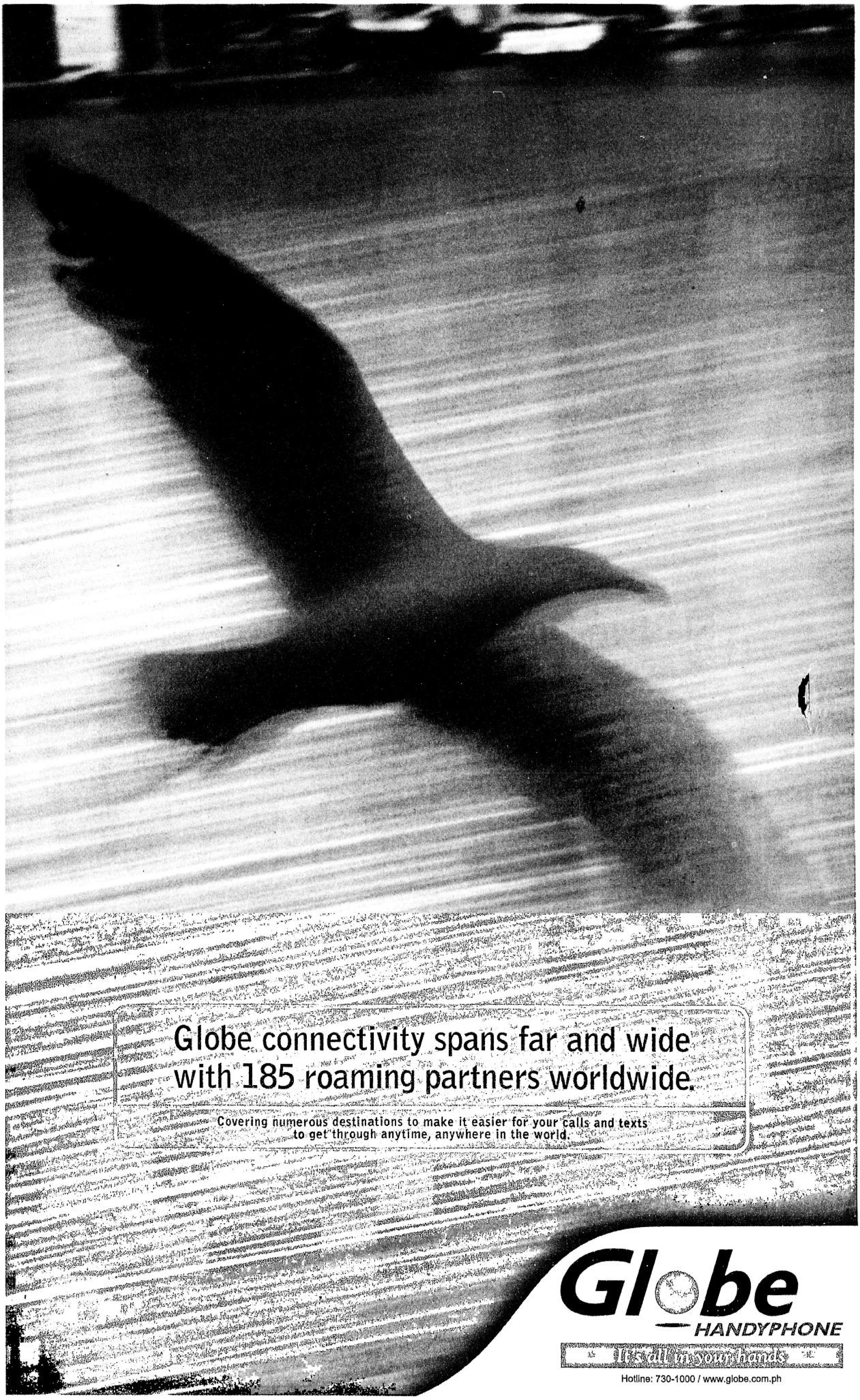

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METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Killer cop goes to work drunk, say colleagues

BY AGNES E. DONATO

SPO1 ROBERTO Ortiz, who allegedly shot dead one of three men who failed to give him P2,000 for a trumped-up traffic violation on Wednesday morning, is a heavy drinker who was earlier accused of beating up two men also over an alleged traffic violation, according to his colleagues.

"I was told that he (Ortiz) reports for work under the influence of alcohol, even in the morning," said Chief Supt. George Aliño, director of the Eastern Police District.

Aliño said he visited yesterday the sub-station where Ortiz was assigned, Police Community Precinct 3 in Karangalan Village in Barangay Sta. Lucia, Pasig.

Another Pasig policeman, who refused to be identified, said in Filipino: "He's like that when he gets drunk, like he loses control of himself."

Ortiz is facing charges of murder, frustrated murder and attempted murder.

Investigators said that at dawn on Wednesday, Ortiz accosted three men for a trumped-up traffic violation, ordered them to kneel with their backs to him and shot two of them, killing one and injuring the other, when they could not give him P2,000, according to the survivor.

Investigators said Ortiz killed Rodel Bacolod, 31, with a gunshot to the back of the head.

KILLER COP/A26

Police trying to break me, says Francis M

MAGALONA

BY CHRISTIAN V. ESGUERRA

RAP artist and television host Francis Magalona yesterday rapped police for deliberately delaying the filing of charges against him to keep him in jail longer.

"'They're trying to break me, man," said Magalona in an interview in his cell at Camp Karingal in Quezon City.

Magalona, 36, of Cherry Woodlane Cottonwood Heights, Antipolo City, and his companion Alfredo de los Reyes, 31, of Makati City, were arrested Wednesday for allegedly smok-

POLICE/ A26

Fire trucks to bring water to dry areas

INTERIOR Secretary Joey Lina yesterday directed the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) to use fire trucks for water rationing in Metro Manila starting today when many parts will have no water.

Lina also ordered BFP officials to stock enough water in case of fire in any part of the metropolis.

Lina issued the orders in a meeting with BFP officials led by its di-

FIRE/ A26

Wazzzzup?

ACACIA 226 WILSON ST., GREENHILLS	RON & RITA	INDAY GARUTAY/JUNE 2 NO COVER CHARGE/7212854
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Cowboy Grill REMEDIOS ST., MALATE	KNIGHTS KOOL JACKS	P 250 CONSUMABLE 9-2 AM/521.8143
Cowboy Grill NOVALICHES Q.C.	STREETLIFE STAY TUNED/MUSIC CIRCUIT	NO ENTRANCE FEE ☎936.9757
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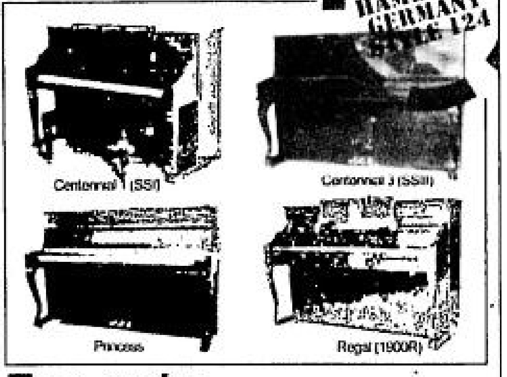

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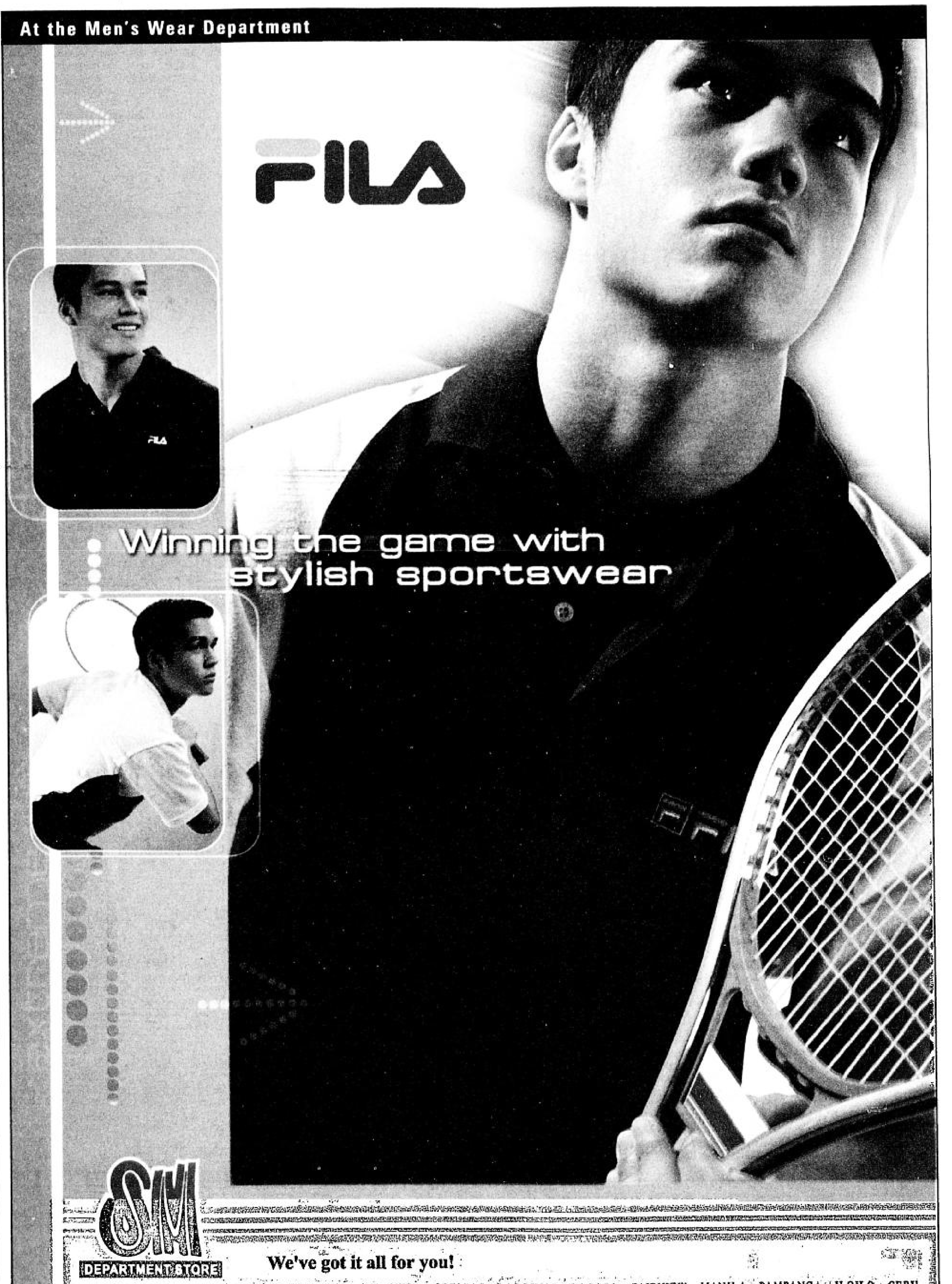

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Man wounded in Pasig City payroll heist

By Agnes E. Donato

A MAN was seriously shot and seriously wounded during a payroll robbery in Pasig City yesterday morning.

Joselito Bautista, a coordinator of the manpower services agency San Sebastian Allied Services Inc., was hit in the right thigh and the right side of the body, according to PO3 Efren Calix.

Bautista is being treated at the Pasig City General Hospital, the investigator said.

PO3 Calix said Bautista and three companions had just withdrawn P230,000 in payroll money from a Metrobank branch in Barangay Kapasigan when the holdup happened about 10:30 a.m.

The employees were on board a Nissan Datsun pick-up on their way back to the office when a motorcycle with two men on it blocked their path.

One of the men got off the motorcycle and announced the holdup while aiming a 9mm pistol at driver Virgilio Manacop, the investigator said.

Accounting assistant Enrique Sumulong was holding the bag of money, police learned. Sumulong passed the bag to Bautista.

The employees then got off their vehicle and started to run into different directions. Since Bautista was carrying the money bag, the armed men went after him and fired.

The armed men grabbed the bag after Bautista lost his balance upon getting hit in the thigh.

Police said they found 11 empty shells and six deformed 9mm slugs at the scene of the heist.

Burger branch burglarized

TWO armed men robbed a Pasay City branch of a popular hamburger chain late Wednesday night of at least P70,000, police said yesterday.

Police said the robbers, who had guns, came to the Roxas Boulevard branch of Burger King about 11:30 p.m. Wednesday while the food chain's crew members were preparing to close for the night.

PO3 Fernando Escol of the Pasay City police said one of the robbers took the .38 cal. service gun of restaurant security guard German Danao.

The robbers went to the manager's office where they found assistant manager Rowena Perea.

PO3 Escol said the robbers took the day's earnings of the restaurant from the cash register. The two men then fled on board a motorcycle, he said.

Security guard Danao said the robbers were wearing vests and carried out the robbery in just a few minutes.

PO3 Escol said the surprise was so total that Danao even failed to take down the license plate number of the motorcycle used by the suspects. *Nelson F. Flores*

2 get death for kidnap, rape

By Alcuin Papa

A MANILA court yesterday sentenced a man and a woman to death, the woman for kidnapping and the man for rape.

Maritess Valerio, 25, of North Bay Boulevard, Navotas, was charged with abducting a 3-year-old girl in a slum in Navotas.

Valerio, said to have been a solvent user, was convicted by Manila Regional Trial Court Branch 18 Judge Perfecto Laguio based on the testimony of the policemen who arrested her on June 15, 1998.

Judge Laguio also sentenced to death dog trainer Leonardo Nuguid for raping a woman in Sampaloc, Manila on Jan. 1, 2000.

Just after noon of June 15, 1998, Jessica Incabo reported to police the disappearance of her daughter Regelen Incabo, 3. She said the girl was taken while playing in front of their house along Road 10 at the North Harbor.

Tondo policemen and Jessica searched for the girl in the nearby squatter neighborhood in Navotas where they found Valerio and the girl.

Valerio denied abducting the girl. She said she was just talking to the child.

Under the law, kidnapping and serious illegal detention are punishable with death under certain circumstances such as the young age or the rape of the victim.

Court records said Valerio had undergone six months of rehabilitation for her addiction to rugby.

Records showed that dog trainer Nuguid was drinking with several men on Firmeza Street in Sampaloc to celebrate the new year.

A drunken Nuguid left the drinking group and knocked on the victim's room. When the door remained shut, Nuguid forced it open and grabbed the woman, dragged her to his own room in the same house and raped her.

When policemen were called, Nuguid held the victim hostage at knifepoint. After five hours, policemen were able to overpower Nuguid.

In his defense, Nuguid said that he and the woman were lovers and it was she who came to his room and kissed him first.

In the end, the court gave more weight to the testimonies of the woman and other prosecution witnesses.

Malonzo accused of disrupting polls

By Christian V. Esguerra

CALOOCAN City Mayor Reynaldo Malonzo and other local officials were yesterday accused of orchestrating the fiasco that allegedly disenfranchised many voters in the May 14 elections.

In a complaint filed with the Commission on Elections, Pablo Casimina, campaign manager of mayoral candidate Rep. Luis "Baby" Asistio, accused Malonzo and his men of disrupting the elections in Caloocan by deliberately "delaying" the distribution of election materials on election day.

Malonzo said he would file a multimillion libel suit against Casimina.

"They lost so they should give in," Malonzo maintained. The other respondents in Casimina's complaint were Gwendolyn Emnace, Malonzo's common-law wife; Maxilyn Emnace Morales, said to be Emnace's sister; and Romeo Gonzales, election officer for district 1.

City treasurer Lourdes Jose and Magdalena Teodisio, chief of the Caloocan mapping division, were also named respondents.

In his affidavit, Casimina said the election materials were not delivered on time to 783 polling precincts in barangays 176 and 188 in the city's first district.

Casimina said the delay had the "ultimate objective of disenfranchising voters in these particular precincts."

Chaos marred the city's elections because of the unruly distribution of election materials in both city districts.

Because of this, elections in many precincts were delayed and even postponed for the following day.

Casimina claimed that Malonzo carried out the alleged scheme by designating Morales, through the city treasurer, as the head of Group 1-C.

"Respondents committed and carried out their fraudulent scheme by deliberately making it impossible for Group 1-C to segregate and distribute the (election materials) on time," Casímina said.

He said the group was tasked to distribute materials to 783 precincts while five other groups were given only 350 each.

In a joint supplemental affidavit, members of Group 1-C claimed they reported to the main city hall two days before the elections to start preparing the election materials.

Morales, however, told them "not to touch" the materials until these were transported to the north city hall, the members said.

They said they were able to prepare the materials in the evening of May 13, a few hours before they were supposedly distributed.

They also claimed they had warned Morales about 2 p.m. the previous day that it would be "impossible" for them to finish the job on time. Morales allegedly ignored the warning.

Just before midnight on May 13, the preparation of election materials had to be stopped because of the "gross errors" in the computation of Morales, the members said.

They also claimed that they asked someone to take the place of Morales since she "had to attend to more important matters."

Calixto Ramos, election officer for district 2, earlier said there was a "concerted action" to delay the distribution.

13-year-old arrested for robbery

POLICE arrested a 13-year-old boy whom a security guard had caught allegedly robbing a supermarket in Parañaque City yesterday morning.

Police said the boy, a resident of Parañaque City, was brought to the Parañaque police station by security guard Romeo Ganzon shortly before 3 a.m.

SPO3 Ernesto de la Cruz, Parañaque City police desk officer, said Ganzon was on patrol in the vicinity of Bervil Market along Sucat Road when he spotted the boy and a still unidentified man carrying five bags of goodies.

De la Cruz said Ganzon tried to surprise the boy and the man but they managed to run away. The guard was eventually able to catch the boy.

De la Cruz said the boy admitted he stole the goods but pleaded for mercy. The boy claimed he was very hungry, the policeman said.

De la Cruz said the boy is detained at the Parañaque police headquarters. *Nelson F. Flores*

Driver gets 16 years for slay

By Christian V. Esguerra

A JEEPNEY driver yesterday was sentenced to 16 years in prison for killing his neighbor in Caloocan City two years' ago.

Judge Bayani Rivera of the Regional Trial Court Branch 129 found Richard Bautista, 31, of Doña Consuelo Street, Caloocan, guilty of stabbing to death tricycle driver Loreto Rublico, 46, on July 4, 1999.

The judge ordered Bautista to pay the victim's family P105,000 in damages.

In his testimony, witness Billy Bernardo said he saw Bautista, armed with a hunting knife, chasing Rublico about 2:30 p.m. along Doña Consuelo Street.

Bernardo said he saw Bautista plunge the knife in the back of Rublico, court records showed.

A bloodied Rublico tried to go after his attacker but he collapsed, Bernardo testified.

The witness and the victim's son Leonard brought Rublico to the Caloocan General Hospital, but the tricycle driver died on the way.

Just before he expired, Rublico was able to identify Bautista as the one who stabbed him.

Bautista killed Rublico to settle an old grudge, court records showed.

Rublico had filed with the barangay council a complaint against Bautista for allegedly slashing the head of the tricycle driver's wife's with a fan knife during a quarrel between Bautista's son and Rublico's grandson.

Bautista denied killing Rublico, saying he was working when the stabbing took place.

POLICEMEN caught Francis M after they shot one of the tires of this car, where the rapper was allegedly smoking marijuana with a companion. EDWIN BACASMAS

Police trying to break me . . .

(From page A25)

ing marijuana in Magalona's black Honda Civic while it was parked on a street in New Manila.

Magalona said "some" police officials might have wanted to keep him jailed since he is a "celebrity."

"It pains me that I'm being condemned in media even before the case could be investigated," Magalona protested. "Is it because I'm a media personality?"

He denied that he was smoking marijuana at the time they were busted and claimed that it was De los Reyes who had the marijuana. But he admitted that he tried to evade arrest since police did not have an arrest warrant.

"I was afraid they would do something bad," he claimed.

He said he parked his car near the corner of 4th and Doña Hemady Streets in New Manila to send a text message to his wife Pia Arroyo.

But police said that when members of the Mobile Patrol Unit pulled over to confront the car's occupants, Magalona sped off and even bumped into the police car during the chase.

Magalona and De los Reyes were caught after police shot a tire of the car on Sta. Cecilia Street near E. Rodriguez Avenue, also in Quezon City, police said.

Police said they found on the two men an improvised tooter and dried marijuana leaves.

Magalona and De los Reyes are facing charges of illegal possession of prohibited drugs before the Quezon City Prosecutor's Office.

A P60,000 bail was recommended for each suspect.

Fire trucks to bring . . .

(From page A25)

rector, F/Chief Supt. Francisco Senot, and BFP NCR assistant regional director Senior Supt. Romeo Villafuerte, following reports that many parts, including Cavite, will be without water for four days.

The water service interruption is due to nine interconnection and valve insertion projects of Maynilad Water Services Inc., which supplies the West Zone of the metropolis.

According to Maynilad, the areas to be affected by the water service interruption are the whole of the cities of Pasay, Parañaque and Las Piñas, as well as Bacoor, Cavite, and in parts of the cities of Manila, Caloocan, Quezon and Makati and the town of Malabon.

Maynilad said the interconnection projects will allow the relocation of an existing water main from the path of the Metro Railway Transit 2 along Recto Avenue in Manila and the interconnection of lateral distribution pipes to the new pipeline.

Maynilad said it will field 86 water tankers to service residents in the affected areas.

The public may call the Maynilad hotline, 1626, or the nearest branch office for the schedule of water tankers. Manila Water customers may call hotline 1627.

Lina said the water to be delivered by the BFP is for free. He urged residents to report to the DILG any BFP personnel who would sell the water.

Lina also cautioned residents to boil the water if it would be used for drinking.

"Make sure that residents in the metropolis will be provided with free and clean water," Lina said in his order to BFP's Senot.

He also enjoined BFP officials to coordinate with barangay chairs in the areas affected so that there would be an orderly and systematic procedure in rationing the water.

Senot said about 85 fire trucks will be mobilized 24 hours to deliver water.

Hospital blamed for reporter's death

By Nelson F. Flores

NEWS reporters covering Pasay City yesterday accused the medical staff of the Pasay City General Hospital of negligence that led to the death last week of a tabloid reporter who apparently suffered heart failure.

James Catapusan, president of the Reporters Organization of Pasay City, said the sudden death of Remate Tonight reporter Reynaldo Pulga could have been avoided had PCGH doctors exercised due diligence in attending to him.

Catapusan said reports reaching the group showed that Pulga was left unattended in the emergency room for several hours despite his serious condition.

Pulga, 53, was rushed to the hospital at about 10 p.m. Friday after he fell unconscious inside the Pasay City Cockpit on Libertad Street, just a few meters away from the PCGH. He died shortly before 3 a.m.

Pulga's friend and Balita reporter Loi Caliwan said he went to the PCGH and he was surprised to see that the staff had not given Pulga any treatment aside from giving him oxygen through a tube inserted up his nose.

"The woman doctor attending to him was only sitting around doing nothing for him," Caliwan said. "They only moved when he was already dying."

National Press Club of the Philippines director Amor Virata said she nearly lost her temper when she saw Pulga's condition. She identified Pulga's attending physician as Dr. Eleanor Parico.

The INQUIRER tried to reach Dr. Parico for comment but a Dr. Arcadio Catunggal said she was not in the hospital.

PCGH director Dr. Luz Abad also could not be reached for comment. Her secretary said she was attending an important meeting with Pasay Mayor Wenceslao Trinidad.

Virata said she pleaded with Parico to have Pulga transferred to another hospital but Parico refused saying Pulga could die on the way.

Virata said someone on the hospital staff told her the real reason why Parico refused was the absence of an ambulance and a driver that night.

Virata said Trinidad should investigate the incident and suspend all those responsible for Pulga's death.

The Pasay City government runs the PCGH.

Killer cop ...

(From page A25)

Fernando Giludo, 32, was hit in the left side of the face when he turned to look at the policeman just before he was shot.

The third man who escaped was the two men's co-worker, engineer Lawrence Mata, 26. All three were employees of the Mayukins Construction firm.

Aliño yesterday ordered the relief of Insp. Rommel Magleo, the head of the police sub-station 3 chief and the immediate superior of Ortiz, for "command responsibility." Temporarily taking Magleo's place is Insp. Jose Ogbac, the deputy chief of the Pasig police intelligence division.

Aliño said he would ask Magleo to explain why Ortiz was allowed to take the sub-station's only police car when he was not on his way to an official business.

Yesterday, the Inquirer also learned from a police source that Ortiz was earlier accused of beating up two tricycle drivers in Barangay Dela Paz, Pasig.

Ortiz reportedly arrested John Raspina, 29, and Ricardo Aponar, 28. on March 11 for an alleged traffic violation. But instead of taking them to the nearby police detachment, Ortiz allegedly beat them up.

Raspina and Aponar, however, wrote a letter of desistance and said they were no longer interested in pursuing a case against Ortiz.

The source said Ortiz has been in the police service for about 15 years now. He previously served as a member of the Special Action Force in Mindanao and the Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) team. He was transferred to Pasig in 1995, when Supt Cesario Yulo became head of the city police.

Investigators said Wednesday's shooting happened in front of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority impounding area on Ortigas Avenue Extension in Pasig about 3:30 a.m.

Bacolod, Giludo and Mata were on board a white Isuzu Elf truck driven by Bacolod. They were on their way to their company headquarters in Barangay Lamuan, Marikina when a police car with body number E-231 cut their path.

Mata told police that a policeman, who was apparently drunk, got off the police car and approached them. The policeman was later identified as Ortiz.

Mata said Ortiz pointed his 9mm pistol at Bacolod and asked the driver for his license.

Bacolod said he had only a traffic citation ticket since he had been apprehended for a traffic violation earlier. Bacolod then offered Ortiz P100 just so he would let them go, Mata told police.

"But he (Ortiz) told us that P100 was not enough and asked us for P2,000 instead," Mata said.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Friday, June 1, 2001
7th Week of Easter

1st Reading: **Acts 25:13-21**
Gospel: **Jn 21:15-19**

After Jesus and his disciples had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?" He answered, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." And Jesus said, "Feed my lambs."

A second time Jesus said to him, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" And Peter answered, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Look after my sheep." And a third time he said to him, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?"

Peter was saddened because Jesus asked him a third time, "Do you love me?" and he said, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you."

Jesus then said, "Feed my sheep. Truly, I say to you, when you were young you put on your belt and walked where you liked. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands and another will put a belt around you and lead you where you do not wish to go."

Jesus said this to make known the kind of death by which Peter was to glorify God. And he added, "Follow me."

Commentary

We are at the end of John's Gospel and also at the end of the Easter season. After Peter's triple fall, we have the story of his triple rise, or rather of being raised up. There is a complete re-instatement to discipleship ("Follow me!") and to servant leadership ("Feed my lambs / sheep!"). If before, Peter was a cocky apostle, now after the cock's crow we have one who is deeply grounded not so much in his limitations but in the limitless mercy and graciousness of Jesus the Master. As Christians, we have been re-instated to discipleship through the Lenten-Easter exercises. Christ's mercy and grace must now precede us in our apostolic mission of bringing life to a world threatened by forces of death and oppression even to the possible lot of persecution and death.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

POLITICAL LAW (ADMINISTRATIVE LAW)—**Due process**—The most basic tenet of due process is the right to be heard. A court denies a party due process if it renders its orders without giving such party an opportunity to present its evidence. The essence of due process is an opportunity to be heard, or as applied to administrative proceedings, an opportunity to explain one's side or an opportunity to seek a reconsideration of the action or ruling complained of. Due process is equally applicable in a case involving public utilities, where a strict application of the rules would bring about catastrophic inconveniences to the public. Hence, the act would do more harm than good to the public, which the government seeks to protect. Damages and losses of a considerable amount of time (about 8 years) could have been prevented if the trial court did not gravely abuse its discretion on the matter. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Pardo, First Division, Camarines Norte Electric Cooperative, Inc. v. Court of Appeals, G.R. No. 109338, November 20, 2000]

Digest by R.B. Vera

'My love, my life, all that is meaningful to me'

"Next to God, you are and always will be the most important person in my life," Aga Muhlach said, his voice cracking.

"I commit myself to building our marriage, our home and our happiness. I will forever be faithful and constant to you, with my love, I will give you my life and all that is meaningful to me."

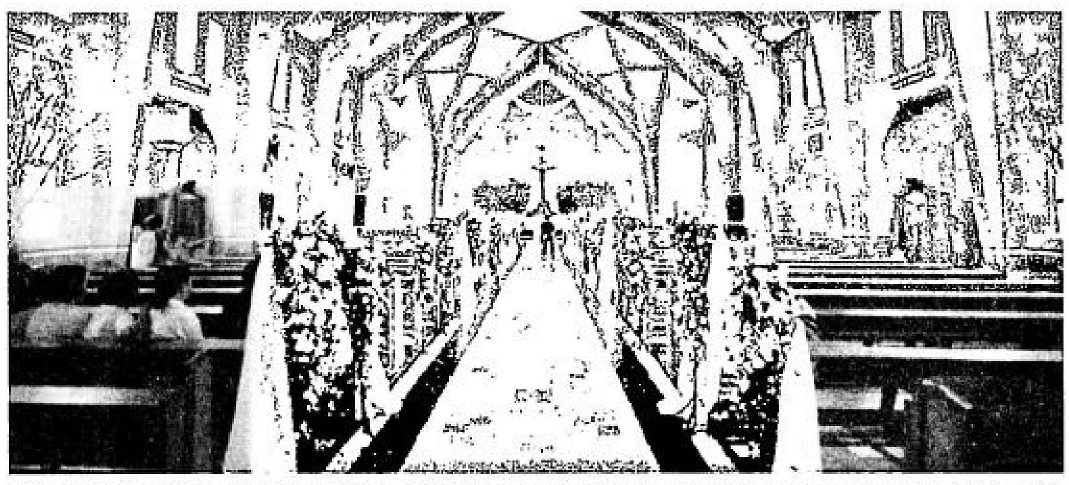
With these words, Aga sealed his marriage to Charlene Gonzales, on a rainy Monday afternoon, May 28, in Baguio City. LS

TOUCHED BY AN ANGEL is the groom, as far as he's concerned.

PHOTOS BY ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

HER HAND IN MARRIAGE is given away to Charlene's groom by her brother, Richard Bonnin.

LOOK OF LOVE makes Aga's eyes sparkle, while a look of longing clouds the face of Bernard Bonnin, the father of the bride.



DOWN THE AISLE decked with flowers will walk the radiant bride on a balmy afternoon, at the St. Joseph the Worker Church in Pacdal, Baguio City.

LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON are Aga and Angelo Luigi Miguel Muhlach, or Iggy Boy.

KING AND QUEEN Fernando Poe Jr. and Vilma Santos are among the principal sponsors.

LADY IN WAITING. Former First Lady Amelita "Ming" Ramos, one of the principal sponsors, waits with the groom for the bride to arrive.

OctoArts EMI
MUSIC INC.
THE BIGGEST ALTERNATIVE MUSIC COMPILATION ALBUM IS HERE!
ROCK MYX
STUDIO 23
COLDPLAY • BLUR • RADIOHEAD
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AT THE DRIVE IN • PLACEBO
MARCY PLAYGROUND
TONY IOMMI featuring DAVE GROHL
MEGADETH • RICHARD ASHCROFT
LUSCIOUS JACKSON • GORILLAZ
SHIVAREE • JOSEPH ARTHUR
All Original Artists
Now Available on Compact Discs and Cassettes

June's bustin' out all over with
JOEY@92.3
JUNEJUNEJUNEJUNE

JUNE 04
PEARL HARBOR
A SPECIAL ADVANCE SCREENING
GLORIETTA 4 CINEMA 6

JUNE 25
ATLANTIS
A SPECIAL ADVANCE SCREENING
GLORIETTA 4 CINEMA 6

*Leave your inhibitions at the door and unleash the fancy footwork! Wednesday night's no time to wind down with party rhythms from **Passage** and **Toy Symphony** at **Café Overdrive!***

JOEY'S DANCE NIGHTS
JUNE 06,13,20 & 27

Join The Mug Squad at Seattle's Best Coffee with steamy sax music from Vince Lajara!
The Mug Squad
@
E. Rodriguez
Megamall
Rockwell
JUNE 15, 22 & 29
Joey's Café Tour

Joey's smokin up the live circuit this month with music from Soulid and Elements!
Joey's Night Rhythms
@ Strumm's
El Pueblo
JUNE 04,11,18 & 25

Fortune's in full bloom as Joey sends off 2 pairs of lucky listeners to Madrid, Spain and Seattle, Washington! Tune in to Joey@92.3 and be the first to fax 882-JOEY the correct answer to the daily trivia question.
2 Winners walk away with either one of 2 paid trips!
flower power
GRAND DRAW
A TRIP FOR 2 TO SULTRY MADRID, SPAIN, OR A TRIP FOR 2 TO NIPPY SEATTLE, WASHINGTON!
NORTHWEST AIRLINES KLM Royal Dutch Airlines

JOEY @ 92.3 Rhythms FM
METRO MANILA
who your radio should be.

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Solo Papaya
Large
PRICE
P12.50/kg.
Reg. Price 14.50/kg.

Stringbeans
PRICE
P40.00/kg.

MEAL MASTER
Rib Eye Steak
*Not available in Makati
PRICE
P250.00/kg.
Reg. Price 360.00

MONTEREY
Ground Beef
PRICE
P95.00/kg.
Reg. Price 115.00/kg.

CAMPO CARNE
Moby Hotdog
- Regular
450 g.
PRICE
P63.00
Reg. Price 65.75

PUREFOODS
Sliced Ham
- Cooked
- Sweet
250 g.
PRICE
P75.00
Reg. Price 78.95

CDO
Squid Balls
250 g.
PRICE
P28.00
Reg. Price 31.50

NESTLE
Ice Cream Supreme
- Double Dutch
- Cookies & Cream
900 mL.
PRICE
P95.00
Reg. Price 99.00

CENTURY
Tuna
- Flakes in Oil
- Hot & Spicy
180 g./3's
PRICE
P62.00
Reg. Price 63.00

555
Sardines
- In Tomato Sauce
- With Chili
155 g./5's
PRICE
P38.00
Reg. Price 38.75

CAMPO CARNE
Chinese Lucheon Meat
375 g.
PRICE
P32.00
Reg. Price 33.25

CDO
Corned Beef
200 g.
PRICE
P20.75
Reg. Price 21.85

PUREFOODS
Chili Con Carne
165 g.
PRICE
P15.50
Reg. Price 16.95

CAMPBELL'S
Cream of Mushroom
290 g.
PRICE
P28.50
Reg. Price 29.75

BAGUIO
Cooking Oil
PET
1 Liter
PRICE
P33.25
Reg. Price 34.25

DEL MONTE
Sweet-Style
Spaghetti Sauce
Pouch
750 g.
PRICE
P51.75
Reg. Price 54.75

KNORR
Liquid Seasoning
PET
1 Liter
PRICE
P105.00
Reg. Price 107.95

MAMA SITA'S
Lumpiang
Shanghai Mix
40 g. (1.4 oz)
PRICE
P10.75
Reg. Price 11.50

KNORR
Noodle Soup
- Chicken
- Beef
60 g.
PRICE
P14.50
Reg. Price 14.95

LUCKY ME!
Instant Noodles
- Chicken
55 g.
PRICE
P3.85
Reg. Price 3.95

MAGGI
Instant Pancit Canton
- Regular
60 g.
PRICE
P4.25
Reg. Price 4.40

WHAMMO'S
- Choco Fudge
- Choco Swirl
- Brownies
6's
PRICE
P51.00
Reg. Price 55.00

LEMON SQUARE
- Pandan Cake
- Cheese Cupcake
- Brownies
- Chocolate Cupcake
6's
PRICE
P22.00
Reg. Price 23.25

ARGENTINA
Liver Spread
85 g.
PRICE
P8.75
Reg. Price 9.75

MAGNOLIA
Cheezee Spread
- Plain
250 g.
PRICE
P37.25
Reg. Price 41.25

KRAFT
Cheesemelt
200 g.
PRICE
P35.75
Reg. Price 37.50

GREAT TASTE
Instant Coffee
100 g.
PRICE
P41.50
Reg. Price 42.95

LUDY'S
Sweet & Creamy
Peanut Butter
In Jar
490 g.
PRICE
P54.75
Reg. Price 60.75

DUMEX
Growing Up Milk
- 1 Plus, 800 g.
- 3 Plus Choco, 900 g.
PRICE
P265.25
Reg. Price 273.75

GAINPLUS
Growing-Up Milk
1.8 kg.
PRICE
P612.50
Reg. Price 637.75

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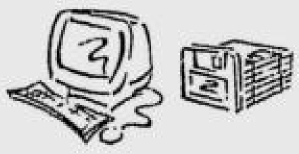

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TO WIN A
OUTDOOR TREKKER
KING COOKWARE!

items at any SM Supermarket,
erSale Club branch entitles the
) raffle coupon.

E 1 TO 14, 2001

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DR • SM FAIRVIEW • SM MANILA • SM SAN FERNANDO • SUPERSALE CLUB • SAVE MORE MARIKINA

SUSTAGEN
FREE Punch Set

SUSTAGEN
Chocolate
Powdered Drink
1 kg.
PRICE
P266^{00}
Reg. Price 268.75

1ST FOODS
Gerber
Rice Banana

GERBER
1st Foods
- Rice Banana

2nd Foods
- Mixed Fruits

150 g.
PRICE
P36^{75}
Reg. Price 38.75

SUSTAGEN PREMIUM

SUSTAGEN
Premium Adult Nutritional
Powdered Drink
- Chocolate

1 kg.
PRICE
P448^{25}
Reg. Price 457.95

DOUBLEMINT
JUICY FRUIT

WRIGLEY'S
Tabs
- Juicy Fruit
- Doublemint

60's
PRICE
P35^{00}
Reg. Price 37.50

CLORETS
Mint Candies
40's
PRICE
P29^{50}
Reg Price 31.50

KISSES
FREE!

HERSHEY'S
Kisses
- With Almond, 340 g.
- Plain, 368 g.

PRICE
P147^{50}

SUNPROS
Raisin & Chocolate
Cookies
180 g.
PRICE
P25^{00}
Reg. Price 26.50

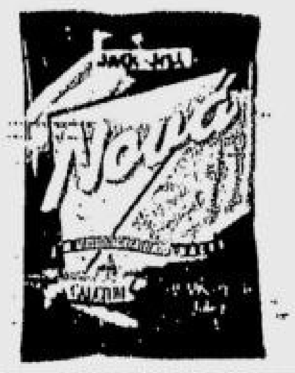
NEW JUMBO PACK!
BluSkies.
RICH & CREAMY CRACKERS

BLUSKIES
Rich & Creamy Crackers
Jumbo Pack
- Plain

225 g.
PRICE
P12^{75}
Reg. Price 13.75

KNICK KNACKS
Coated Biscuits
- Chocolate
- Milk

22 g / 6's
PRICE
P17^{75}
Reg. Price 19.25

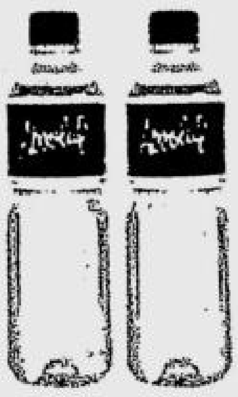

JACK 'n JILL
Nova

JACK 'n JILL
Nova
- Country Cheddar

78 g.
PRICE
P15^{75}
Reg. Price 16.75

Vitamins and Minerals Fortified
MOO

SELECTA
Moo Chocolate
Milk Drink
250 mL
PRICE
P11^{00}
Reg. Price 11.50

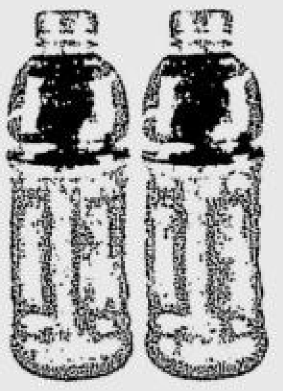


ABSOLUTE
Distilled Water
500 mL
PRICE
P8^{75}
Reg. Price 9.75

Pop cola
Pop cola

POP COLA
In Can
- Regular
- Diet

330 mL
PRICE
P8^{00}
Reg. Price 8.50



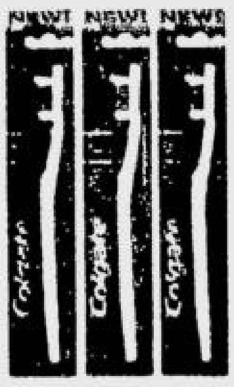
NUTRI-LICIOUS
Fruit Drink
- Mango

PET
1 Liter
PRICE
P57^{50}
Reg. Price 64.50

SHARK
Energy Drink
150 mL
PRICE
P17^{75}
Reg. Price 19.50

Budweiser
Budweiser

BUDWEISER
Beer In Can
330 mL
PRICE
P15^{50}
Reg. Price 16.75


NEW!
NEW!
NEW!
Colgate
Colgate
Colgate

COLGATE
Premier Toothbrush
PRICE
P20^{00}
Reg. Price 21.75

BETADINE
BETADINE

BETADINE
Oral Antiseptic
Solution
120 mL
PRICE
P91^{00}
Reg. Price 96.75

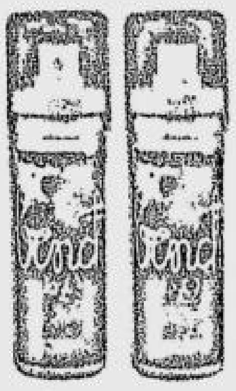
Gillette
Gel
Gel

GILLETTE
Series Shaving Gel
- Cool Wave
- Wild Rain

71 mL (2.5 oz.)
PRICE
P88^{00}
Reg. Price 92.75

OFF!
KIDS
OFF!
KIDS

OFF!
Insect Repellent Lotion
For Kids
50 mL
PRICE
P32^{00}
Reg. Price 34.75


bench
bench

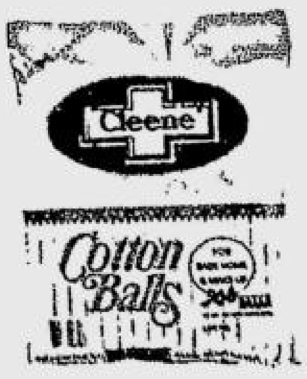
BENCH
Body Spray
- Atlantis
- B2O
- Eight

75 mL
PRICE
P70^{00}
Reg. Price 79.75

L'OREAL
L'OREAL
Color Fitness

L'OREAL
Color Fitness
- Dark Brown
- Brown
- Light Brown
- Dark Blonde
- Black

PRICE
P245^{00}
Reg. Price 275.00


Cleene
Cotton Balls

CLEENE
Cotton Balls
300's
PRICE
P43^{75}
Reg. Price 47.75

Sanicyd
Sanicyd

SANICYD
Plus Feminine Wash
60 mL
PRICE
P46^{75}
Reg. Price 50.75

Spirit
Spirit

MODESS
Spirit Sanitary Napkin
- Maxi

8's
PRICE
P20^{50}
Reg. Price 23.75

PROKIDS
Premium Disposable
Diapers Value Pack
- Large

36's
PRICE
P329^{50}
Reg. Price 348.50

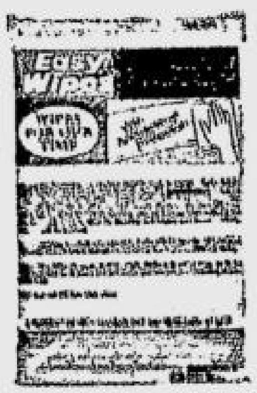
Baygon
Baygon

BAYGON
Cockroach Killer
175 g.
PRICE
P106^{75}
Reg Price 113.75

KLEEN
KLEEN

KVK KLEEN
Shoe Polish
- Black
- Brown

15 mL
PRICE
P17^{75}
Reg. Price 19.75



EASY WIPES
Cleaning Cloth
36 cm. x 106 cm.
PRICE
P49^{00}
Reg. Price 59.75

SCOTCH-BRITE
Non-Scratch
Scrub Sponge
PRICE
P31^{75}
Reg. Price 34.75

SM CINEMA GUIDE

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1	DOLBY SURROUND	TRAFFIC
2	DOLBY SURROUND	OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
3	DOLBY DIGITAL	THE MUMMY RETURNS
4	DOLBY SURROUND	CUT AWAY
5	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	ANGEL EYES
6	DOLBY SURROUND	ALAS DOSE
7	DOLBY SURROUND	CARTA ALAS
8	DOLBY SURROUND	KAMASUTRA 2001

SM CENTERPOINT 7149522 • 7161416

1	DOLBY SURROUND	ALAS DOSE
2	DOLBY SURROUND	KAMASUTRA 2001
3	DTS	THE MUMMY RETURNS
4	DOLBY SURROUND	TRAFFIC
5	DOLBY DIGITAL	ANGEL EYES
6	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	SOMEONE LIKE YOU
7	DOLBY SURROUND	CUT AWAY
8	DOLBY SURROUND	THE MUMMY RETURNS
9	DOLBY SURROUND	CARTA ALAS
10	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	OTHER SIDE OF LOVE

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 9350749

1	DOLBY SURROUND	TRAFFIC
2	DOLBY SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
3	DOLBY SURROUND	OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
4	DOLBY DIGITAL	ANGEL EYES
5	DOLBY SURROUND	THE MUMMY RETURNS
6	DOLBY SURROUND	ALAS DOSE
7	DOLBY DIGITAL	THE MUMMY RETURNS
8	DOLBY SURROUND	CUT AWAY
9	DOLBY SURROUND	VALENTINE
10	DOLBY SURROUND	KAMASUTRA 2001
11	DOLBY SURROUND	SOMEONE LIKE YOU
12	DOLBY SURROUND	CARTA ALAS

SM CITY MANILA 5239240

1	DOLBY DIGITAL	ANGEL EYES
2	DOLBY DIGITAL	CUT AWAY
3	DOLBY SURROUND	KAMASURA 2001
4	DOLBY SURROUND	THE MUMMY RETURNS
5	DOLBY DIGITAL	TRAFFIC
6	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	THE MUMMY RETURNS
7	DOLBY SURROUND	SOMEONE LIKE YOU
8	DOLBY SURROUND	CARTA ALAS
9	DOLBY SURROUND	ALAS DOSE
10	DOLBY SURROUND	OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
11	DOLBY SURROUND	BALIKTARAN
12	DOLBY SURROUND	VALENTINE

GUADALUPE COMM'L CTR 8820950

1	ULTRA SURROUND	MAPAGBIGAY
2	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	ALAS DOSE
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	THE MUMMY RETURNS

SM MEGAMALL 6331901 • 6329401

1	DOLBY DIGITAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
2	DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
3	DOLBY DIGITAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
4	DTS	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
5	DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
6	DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
7	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	TRAFFIC
8	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	ANGEL EYES
9	DOLBY SURROUND	ALAS DOSE
10	DOLBY SURROUND	THE MUMMY RETURNS
11	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	THE MUMMY RETURNS
12	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	CUT AWAY

SM CITY NORTH EDSA 9295452

1	DOLBY SURROUND	OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
2	DOLBY SURROUND	ALAS DOSE
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	CUT AWAY
4	DOLBY SURROUND	CARTA ALAS
5	DOLBY SURROUND	TRAFFIC
6	DOLBY SURROUND	ANGEL EYES
7	DTS	THE MUMMY RETURNS
8	DOLBY DIGITAL	THE MUMMY RETURNS
9	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	KAMASUTRA 2001
10	DOLBY SURROUND	BALIKTARAN
11	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	SOMEONE LIKE YOU
12	DOLBY SURROUND	VALENTINE

SM SOUTHMALL 8066888 • 8066782

1	ULTRA SURROUND	TRAFFIC
2	ULTRA SURROUND	KAMASUTRA 2001
3	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	THE MUMMY RETURNS
4	ULTRA SURROUND	CUT AWAY
5	ULTRA SURROUND	OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
6	ULTRA SURROUND	VALENTINE
7	ULTRA SURROUND	ALAS DOSE
8	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	ANGEL EYES
9	ULTRA SURROUND	THE MUMMY RETURNS
10	ULTRA SURROUND	CARTA ALAS

TUTUBAN CENTER 2514302

1	ULTRA SURROUND	THE MUMMY RETURNS
2	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	ANGEL EYES
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	ALAS DOSE
4	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	CARTA ALAS

SM CEBU 2313876

1	DOLBY SURROUND	THE MUMMY RETURNS
2	ULTRA SURROUND	DEMON GATE
3	ULTRA SURROUND	CARTA ALAS
4	ULTRA SURROUND	PILAK
5	ULTRA SURROUND	BALIKTARAN
6	ULTRA SURROUND	LUCKY NUM.BERS
7	DOLBY SURROUND	THWE MUMMY RETURNS

SM ILOILO 3209422

1	ULTRA SURROUND	PILAK
2	ULTRA SURROUND	CLOSED
3	ULTRA SURROUND	SOMEONE LIKE YOU
4	ULTRA SURROUND	LUCKY NUMBERS
5	ULTRA SURROUND	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND
6	ULTRA SURROUND	THE MUMMY RETURNS
7	ULTRA SURROUND	CLOSED
8	ULTRA SURROUND	CROUCHING TIGER

SM PAMPANGA 7128015

1	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	THE MUMMY RETURNS
2	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	TRAFFIC
3	DOLBY SURROUND	KAMASUTRA 2001
4	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	BALIKTARAN
5	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	CARTA ALAS
6	DOLBY SURROUND	THE MUMMY RETURNS

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GLORIETTA 1 (formerly QUAD)

1	ALAS DOSE
2	THE MUMMY RETURNS
3	CARTA ALAS
4	CUT AWAY

GLORIETTA 4 — All Digital Sound

1	ANGEL EYES	In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
2	TRAFFIC	In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3	THE MUMMY RETURNS THX	In DSD/SDDS/DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4	ALL THE PRETTY HORSES (Phil. Premiere) — Art Film	In DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5	SOMEONE LIKE YOU	In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
6	THE MUMMY RETURNS	In DTS/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
7	CUT AWAY	In DTS DIGITAL SOUND

GREENBELT

1	ALL THE PRETTY HORSES (Phil. Premiere)	In DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
2	THE MUMMY RETURNS	In SONY DYNAMIC DIGITAL SOUND
3	ANGEL EYES	In DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
4	MARTIN NIEVERA LIVE June 8-9 9PM Onstage	

ALABANG TOWN CENTER

1	THE MUMMY RETURNS THX	In DSD/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
2	ANGEL EYES	In DSD DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3	THE MUMMY RETURNS	In DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4	ALAS DOSE	In DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5	CUT AWAY	In DTS DIGITAL SOUND

MMTA

METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

EMAIL: mmta@asia.com

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (DTS)	TRAFFIC
2 (SDDS)	THE MUMMY RETURNS
3 (DTS)	SOMEONE LIKE YOU
4 GOLD (DTS)	THE MUMMY RETURNS
5 GOLD (DOLBY)	ANGEL EYES
6 GOLD (SDDS)	CUT AWAY
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	THE MUMMY RETURNS
8 [illegible]	CARTA ALAS
9 [illegible]	SPY KIDS
10 [illegible]	ALAS DOSE

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853 4486

1	CARTA ALAS
2	OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
3 (DTS)	SAY IT ISN'T SO
4	
5	QUILLS
6 (DTS)	THE MUMMY RETURNS

Golden Pearl THX

Masagana CINEMAX 1-2 & 3
(Kalaw) tel 536.4315

1 (DOLBY)	ALAS DOSE
2 (DTS)	THE MUMMY RETURNS
3	CARTA ALAS

Masagana CINEMA 2000
(Pasay) tel 831 6603

1	ALAS DOSE
2	THE MUMMY RETURNS
3	CARTA ALAS

starmall Movies
(Shaw Blvd) tel 724.4986

1	ANGEL EYES
2	ALAS DOSE
3	CARTA ALAS
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	THE MUMMY RETURNS
5	KAMASUTRA 2001

Metropolis
(Alabang) tel 543.4001

1	ALAS DOSE
2	OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
3	RESERVE
4	RESERVE
5	CARTA ALAS
6	THE MUMMY RETURNS
7	ANGEL EYES
8	CUT AWAY

LOUIE'S CINEMA THX
(Makati City) tel 751.2010/892.3349

1	TRAFFIC

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	BALIKTARAN
2	EXIT WOUNDS

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC
tel 930.9515

1	RESERVE
2	CARTA ALAS
3	OTHER SIDE OF LOVE

Spring
(Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864

1	CARTA ALAS
A	OTHER SIDE OF LOVE

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	THE MUMMY RETURNS
2	ALAS DOSE
3	CARTA ALAS
4	MASARAP UNANG KAGAT

GOTESCO CINEMA

City
(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (DOLBY)	ALAS DOSE
2	RESERVE
3	RESERVE
4	CUT AWAY
5	KAMASUTRA 2001
6	CARTA ALAS
7 (DTS)	THE MUMMY RETURNS
8 (SDDS)	THE MUMMY RETURNS
9 (DOLBY)	ANGEL EYES

Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2	ALAS DOSE

Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1	ALAS DOSE
2	ALAS DOSE
3	CARTA ALAS
4 (SDDS)	THE MUMMY RETURNS
5	TRAFFIC
6 (DOLBY)	ANGEL EYES
7 (DTS)	THE MUMMY RETURNS
8	RESERVE
9	RESERVE

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1 (DTS)	THE MUMMY RETURNS
2	ALAS DOSE
3	KAMASUTRA 2001
4	RESERVE
5 (SDDS)	ANGEL EYES
6	CUT AWAY
7 (DOLBY)	THE MUMMY RETURNS
8	CARTA ALAS

Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1	ALAS DOSE
2	CARTA ALAS
3 (DTS)	CUT AWAY
4	SPY KIDS
5 (SDDS)	THE MUMMY RETURNS

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1	ALAS DOSE

Sampaquita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	ALAS DOSE

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

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Lords	CARTA ALAS
Jennet	

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	ALAS DOSE
2	THE MUMMY RETURNS
3	RESERVE
4	CARTA ALAS

Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215

1	
2	ALAS DOSE

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
SUPER CINERAMA tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY)	THE MUMMY RETURNS
2	CARTA ALAS
3	MASARAP UNANG KAGAT
4	ALAS DOSE
5	ANGEL EYES

New Divisoria Mall CINEMA
tel 244.4619

1	ALAS DOSE
2	CARTA ALAS
3	THE MUMMY RETURNS
4	OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
5	DALAWA SI EBA
6	MASARAP UNANG KAGAT

Baclaran LRT CINEMA
tel 512.0115

1 (DOLBY)	ALAS DOSE
2	THE MUMMY RETURNS
3	CARTA ALAS
4	
5	

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1	CARTA ALAS
2	ALAS DOSE
3 (DTS)	THE MUMMY RETURNS

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	ALAS DOSE
2 (DTS)	VALENTINE
3 (DOLBY)	THE MUMMY RETURNS
4	CARTA ALAS

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	CARTA ALAS
2	CUT AWAY
3	ALAS DOSE
4 (DTS)	THE MUMMY RETURNS

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	THE MUMMY RETURNS
2	ALAS DOSE
3 (DTS)	VALENTINE
4	CARTA ALAS
5	THE POSSESSED

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	THE MUMMY RETURNS
2	CARTA ALAS
3	ALAS DOSE

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 536.5101

1	THE MUMMY RETURNS
2	CARTA ALAS
3	ALAS DOSE

Olivarez Tagaytay
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2	THE MUMMY RETURNS
3	EVANGELINE 14

Morales Cinema
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3	CARTA ALAS

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

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3	CARTA ALAS

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(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	ORAS NA PARA LUMABAN
2	THE POSSESSED
3	TRAFFIC
4	THE MUMMY RETURNS

Berma
tel 879 2168

1	CARTA ALAS
2	ALAS DOSE

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1	CARTA ALAS
2	TRAFFIC
3	ALAS DOSE
4	THE MUMMY RETURNS

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	THE MUMMY RETURNS
2	ALAS DOSE
3	CARTA ALAS
4 (DTS EX)	TRAFFIC

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DOLBY dts SDDS

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ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	CARTA ALAS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	THE MUMMY RETURNS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	ANGEL EYES
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	TRAFFIC
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	KAMASUTRA 2001
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	SPY KIDS
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	THE MUMMY RETURNS
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
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EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	UHAW SA INIT / ONE NIGHT STAND
ODEON	ALAS DOSE
ODEON-2	THE MUMMY RETURNS
ROBEN	CARTA ALAS
TANDEM-1	KUNG LILIGAYA KA
TANDEM-2	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
TIMES	LOST "HARD BULLET
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	CARTA ALAS
QUEZON-1	CARTA ALAS
REMAR	ALAS DOSE
REMAR-2	THE MUMMY RETURNS
CUBAO	
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MANDALUYONG CITY	
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CINEMA-2	THE MUMMY RETURNS
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-54091 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	MASARAP HABANG MAINIT
CINEMA-2	CARTA ALAS
CINEMA-3	KAMASUTRA 2001
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	THE MUMMY RETURNS
CINEMA-6	VALENTINE
CINEMA-7	SPY KIDS
CINEMA-8	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	THE MUMMY RETURNS
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	THE MUMMY RETURNS
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	ANGEL EYES
CINEMA-12	TRAFFIC
CINEMA-14	CUT AWAY
CINEMA-15	ALAS DOSE
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	SPY KIDS
CINEMA-2	THE MUMMY RETURNS
CINEMA-3	ANGEL EYES
CINEMA-4	THE MUMMY RETURNS
CINEMA-5	TRAFFIC
CINEMA-6	THE MUMMY RETURNS
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(LAS PINAS)	
CINEMA-1	KUNG LILIGAYA KA . . .
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UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	BODY TO BODY
CINEMA-2	LAGARISTA
CINEMA-4	BAIT

Life . . .

(From page A32)

"amazing grace" is a full product line. I've tried the shampoo and conditioner, the body lotion as well as the spray cologne. The message hit very close to home. Let me share it with you.

"philosophy: life is a classroom. we are both student and teacher. each day is a test, and each day we receive a passing or failing grade in one particular subject: grace. grace is compassion, gratitude, surrender, faith, forgiveness, good manners, reverence, and the list goes on. it's something money can't buy and credentials rarely produce. being the smartest, the prettiest, the most talented, the richest, or even the poorest, can't help. being humble is a good place to start."

I'm very headstrong. I set definite goals for myself. For most of my life, by sheer guts and determination, I've managed to achieve all that I've set out to do. Yet I've now only come to realize that I didn't do it on my own. There were countless hands, both seen and mystical, that helped lift me up.

Recently, I stumbled. I was incapable of making the shift to news reportage. I had immense trouble being effective when there's only a teleprompter to relate to. It was a blow to my ego, but also a chance to appreciate my one undeniable strength. I am at my best when I converse with people.

I can draw out the best and the most straightforward they've got to offer. I can disarm with my honesty.

Maybe I now have the "grace" to accept that there are certain things you'll be really competent at, possibly even be the best at, and there are talents you just won't possess.

In a talk show format, your questions are guided, but the general flow comes from your perception of the subject's answers and picking up from what he has said or omitted in his answers. In other words, the best talk show hosts listen carefully and have definite opinions.

That's what "Kris and Tell," the program that will debut on Monday, will be all about. Our take-off point is this column. My views on things, restaurants, lifestyle choices, books, music, movies. Plus one-on-one feature interviews. The only thing that will set it apart is that the book-ends of the show are blind items and the hottest, possibly salacious, gossip items.

I've taped a few of the features already. If you enjoy this column, then watch it come to life on your TV screens.

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Hear the Difference. Feel the Excitement

Janice returns to TV

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

THESE past weeks, **Janice de Belen** has bounced back from near-anonymity because of the upheavals being experienced by her marriage, due to the machinations of a young interloper.

Many people's hearts went out to Janice, especially after it was cattily surmised that her spouse's eyes had wandered because Janice had become "losyang" (allowed herself to go to pot).

Well, last Sunday, Janice proved her snide detractors wrong by appearing on "S-Files" as **Paolo Bediones**' guest cohost. Instead of looking matronly and over-the-hill, Janice was smart and peppy, very much her old articulate and quotable self. Clearly, despite her marital woes, she was not about to be put out to pasture.

Right off the bat, the show tested Janice's resolve by asking her to comment on the wedding of **Aga Muhlach**, her former beau (and the father of her son **Igi Boy**) and **Charlene Gonzales**. Janice's sincerity in wishing the couple the very best made a strong impression on viewers.

The situation was made even more delicate by the fact that Janise's own marriage was on the rocks. It would have been easy for her to grouse about the institution, and to warn Aga and Charlene about their own possibly rocky times ahead, but Janice rose above that.

The farthest she went was to observe that high-profile celebrity weddings put greater pressure on the couple to make their marriage succeed, because of the greater expectations resulting from the attendant publicity.

Paolo concluded the grilling by asking Janice why, in her view, her affair with Aga hadn't ended up at the altar. Candidly, Janice replied that they were still very young when she got pregnant, so if they had gotten married on the rebound, it was practically certain that the union wouldn't have lasted anyway.

Janice was visibly relieved when the show got her off the hook and went on to other topics. Paolo did the hosting honors for the most part, but Janice soon came back on camera to interview sexy singer **Mystica** on the fuss and bother between her and her erstwhile bodyguard-lover.

The singer came up with a tearjerking performance that was matched in implausibility by her bodyguard's ugly counter-charges. The poor viewer had to put up with their completely contradictory versions of their sordid contretemps.

To her credit, Janice did her best to keep the talk above-board, even as the ex-lovers brought their argument down to the gutter level.

Clearly, Janice has proven that she's got what it takes to host her own TV talk-variety show. GMA-7 bosses should lose no time in coming up with a suitable format for her.

After all, she still has a following that can be energized into supporting a new show topbilling their favorite luminary.

There is life after a rocky marriage, if you're as talented and unsinkable as Janice de Belen.

MTV Asia does a Belinda Panelo

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

WE don't know the details of the exclusive deal of Westlife with MTV Asia during the popular Irish boy band's one-night concert in Manila, but it was MTV which delayed the Westlife presscon last Tuesday at the Manila Galleria Suites.

Westlife was supposed to meet the press at 1:30 p.m., according to the invitation from BMG Records. The Westlife presscon would have immediately followed that of German pop artist **Christian Wunderlich.**

However, during Wunderlich's presscon, the BMG Records staff announced that Westlife would meet the media at 3 p.m. The writers and photographers were told it was the birthday of member **Mark Feehily** the day before and the band members had celebrated till 5 a.m. so they couldn't wake up early enough for the 1:30 p.m. presscon. Understandable. Forgiven.

At 3 p.m., when the writers, cameramen, photographers and radio deejays gathered again in the Hidalgo Room, it was announced that MTV Asia was doing an interview in the suite of the band. The press was told to wait for 15 minutes. Patience.

It proved to be the longest 15 minutes. Westlife faced the media at 4:30 p.m., an hour and a half later.

BMG Records staff members were visibly tense during the entire wait, when the media people were already grumbling and complaining. But the BMG people couldn't do anything about it, short of dragging the Westlife members down to the presscon venue.

MTV Asia should have been considerate enough to shorten its interview, since a big group was waiting for the boy band downstairs.

MTV had already shut out other TV networks from one-on-one interviews with Westlife, after clinching the exclusive deal. Just because MTV is an international music channel watched by millions of viewers all over Asia does not give it the right to keep media people waiting for "15 minutes."

We heard this is not the first time MTV Asia did this to media people. Veejay **Belinda Panelo** reportedly has a habit of doing interviews at her own pace, unmindful of others who are waiting for their turn.

Binoe, box-office and boxing

IS IT true that **Robin Padilla** is not really making money despite having one box-office hit after another?

Robin is reportedly just fulfilling his multi-picture deal with Viva Films, which he signed prior to his imprisonment and for which he had been paid. So Robin is not really getting rich despite the success of his movies, like the ones with **Vina Morales** and **Regine Velasquez**.

But his home studio has allowed Robin to make movies for other outfits. He teams up with **Pops Fernandez** for the first time in a Star Cinema project, "Videoke King."

In Robin's upcoming starrer for Viva, "Buhay Kamao," the action superstar will play a boxer for the first time on the big screen. The role is close to Robin's heart because two of his uncles were boxers.

Pempe Padilla was a one-time Philippine representative to the Olympics, and **Carlos Padilla Sr.** was also a boxer. The son of the senior Padilla, **Carlos Jr.**, who is the father of **Zsa Zsa Padilla**, was also a boxer before he became a renowned international referee.

Robin is also a boxing aficionado. His idol is boxing legend **Muhammad Ali**. But Robin also adores other giants such as **Sugar Ray Leonard, Mike Tyson** and **Rocky Marciano**. In the local front, he takes his hat off to **Gerry Peñalosa** and **Manny Pacquiao**.

Robin confesses he had a hard time doing "Buhay Kamao," which included training for six months at the Elorde Sports Complex.

The fight scene with **David Bunevacz** was shot for two days. Robin says it's no joke trading punches with a six-foot-four hunk like David.

"He (David) punched so hard it made my head ache," he shares. "After the fight scene, you couldn't sleep right away because you might have internal hemorrhage, so my fight trainers had to check on me."

"Buhay Kamao" reunites Robin with director **Joyce Bernal**, who also directed his blockbuster with **Regine Velasquez**, "Kailangan Kita." "Buhay Kamao" pairs Robin with flavor of the month **Rica Peralejo**, and also introduces child newcomer **Kristine Mangle.**

PADILLA. Plays a boxer, a role close to this heart.

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MUMMY RETURNS - P 13
1:30, 4:10, 6:50, 9:30

ANGEL EYES - P 13
12:45, 2:40, 4:45, 8:50, 8:55, 11:00

MUMMY RETURNS - P 13
11:30, 2:10, 4:50, 7:30, 10:10

TRAFFIC - P 13
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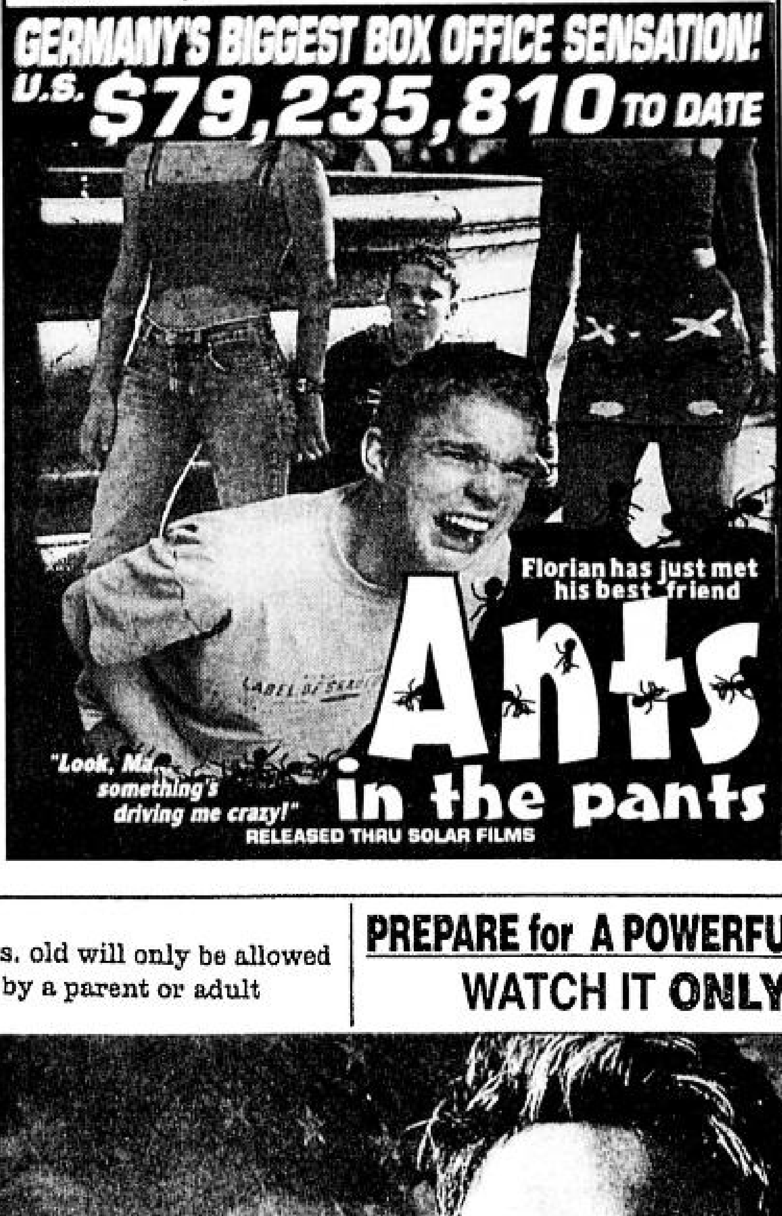

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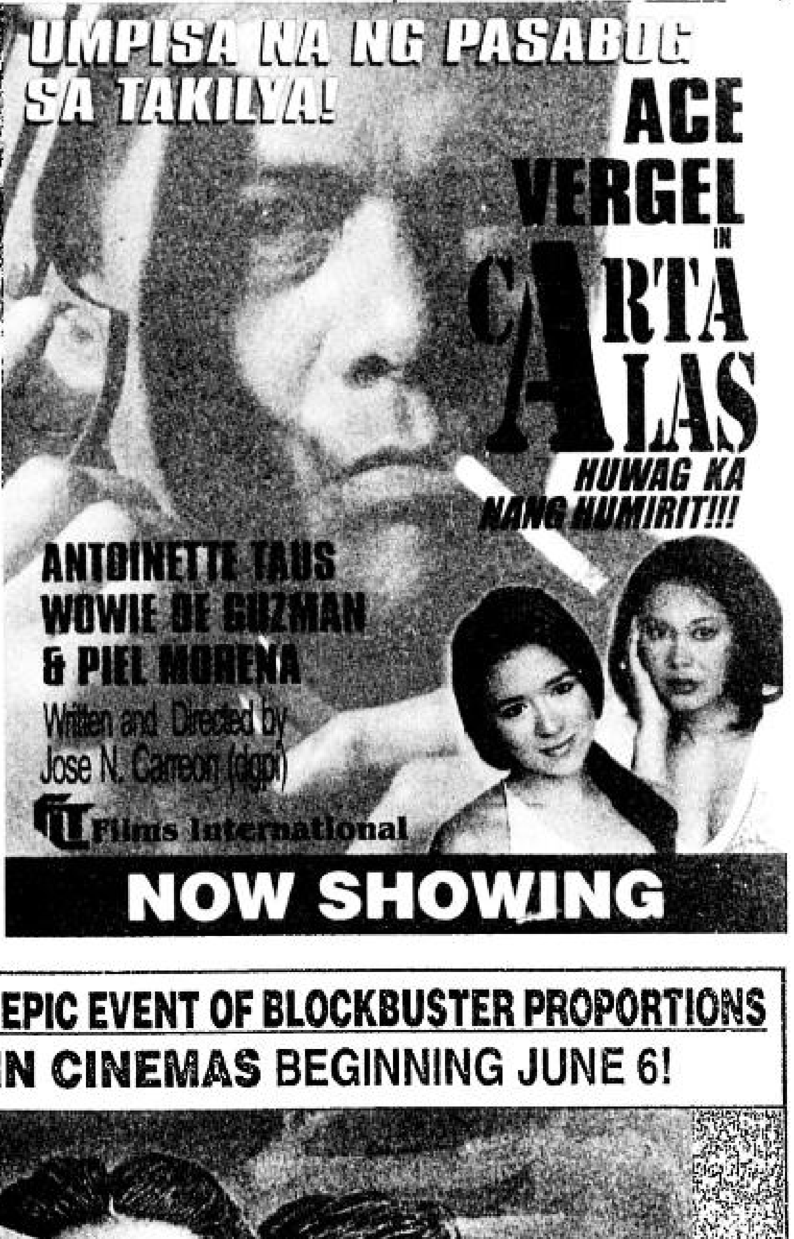

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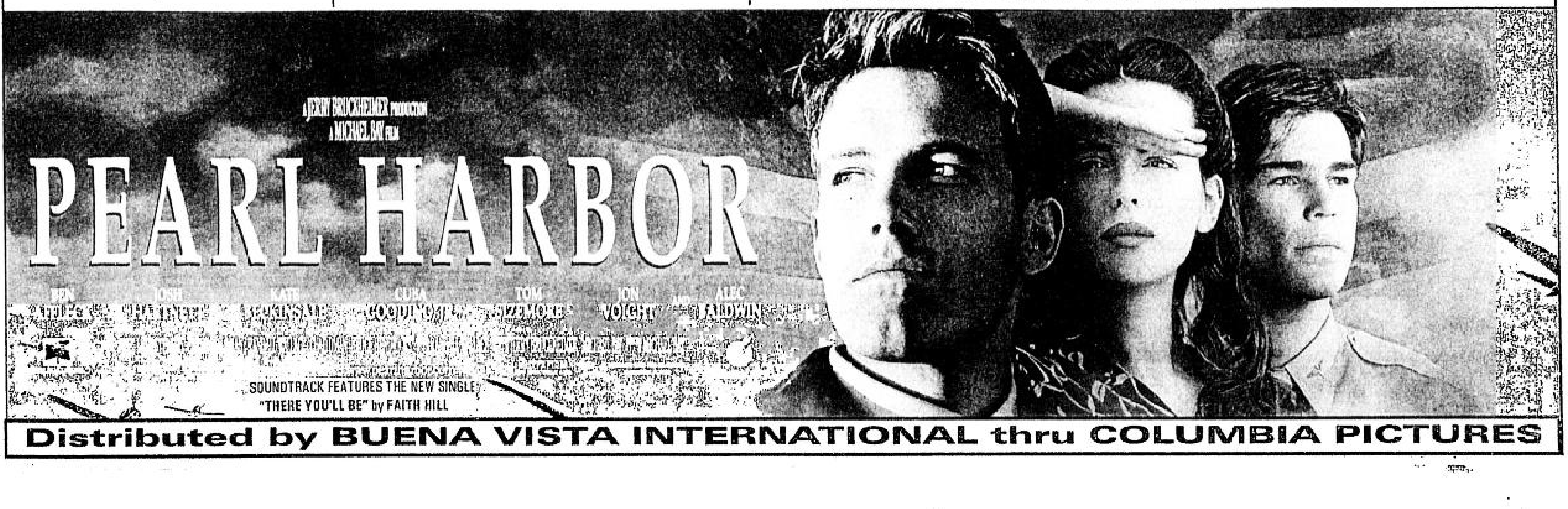

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ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Life according to beauty products

KRIS AND TELL

Kris Aquino

I FIRST learned about "philosophy," a line of beauty products, when Oprah featured "hope in a jar" in her "Oprah's Favorite Things" episode. Beauty Bar started carrying the line locally this year, and I've fallen in love with the products.

Part of the charm of this line is the literature printed on its packaging. Who'd have ever thought that you could gain much insight from a product line meant to cater to our vain tendencies?

"soul mates" is a unisex spray cologne. Maybe this is also a reflection of my frame of mind right now. Let me share with you what's printed on the box. (All the letters used in the philosophy line messages are printed in lower case.)

"philosophy: you don't need to look for love, you only need to wait, for soulmates always find us. like a left foot needs a right foot, we all need a soulmate. like having two feet on the ground, it helps to be prepared before they arrive. even if your goods are a little damaged, a true soulmate will always love you just the way you are."

We all need to believe that the right partner will come at the right time. If it isn't now, no matter how much you force the issue, it's just not going to pan out. But for some strange reason, sometimes when you least expect it, things just fall into place.

My favorite line is about having your feet firmly planted on the ground, and preparing yourself for his eventual arrival. Alone time is the best time to rediscover yourself, develop your strengths, and deal with your vulnerabilities.

As I've come to realize, not having a relationship doesn't negate you as a person, yet staying in a dead-end one can fatally wound your soul. But being in a healthy, loving one can only enhance you. And embarking on a relationship is one of the most exhilarating journeys that life wants us to travel.

In the movie "Bounce," **Ben Affleck** makes that "last call" of the night, the one where you just check up on what kind of day your significant other has had. That last call is really all that we need. It gives you a chance to share what kind of day you've had, or to say just a simple, "I thought of you, just wanted to say goodnight." Maybe it's enough that you know there's someone who cares enough to listen and to share his life with you.

LIFE/ A30

Congratulations Aga and Charlene.
Argentina BRAND CORNED BEEF
Argentina BRAND CORNED BEEF
Argentina BRAND CORNED BEEF

'My love . . .'

(From page A27)

WHAT God has put together, new husband and wife Aga and Charlene will make sure no one will put asunder.

BACK TO THE FUTURE. Aga Muhlach and Charlene Gonzales-Muhlach turn their backs on leading separate lives.

AAHHH

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BOP deficit doubles to $1.087B

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE COUNTRY posted a huge balance of payment deficit of $1.087 billion in the first two months of the year, reflecting a massive flight of capital due to political uncertainties during the period.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas data showed that the first two-month deficit was almost double the BOP gap of $506 million in January to February last year. Of the $1.087 billion in BOP deficit, $596 million was incurred in January while $491 was incurred in February.

The two-month BOP position was way off the BSP's expected surplus of $55 million in January and February. For the entire year, the BSP is targeting a surplus of $70 million.

A deficit in the BOP means that the funds that were brought out of the country were more than the funds that were infused into the system through trade, investments and borrowings.

The BSP blamed for the dismal BOP position the $2.172-billion deficit in the capital and financial accounts, which was 56 percent higher than the $1.392 billion registered in the same months last year.

The central bank data showed that Filipino investors opted to shift their peso investments into dollars leading to a deficit in other investment accounts of $1.860 billion or 159 percent more than last year's two-month deficit of $717 million.

The BSP said the increased net outflow in other investment accounts was due to higher loan repayments and net short-term trade receivables. In February, the BSP paid $400 million for maturing loans and in January, the national government also settled maturing foreign liabilities.

Foreign direct investments improved to $104 million compared to only $2 million in the same months last year. The gains, however, were more than offset by the higher loan repayment requirements and the practice of many exporters to keep their dollars intact.

Although better than last year's figures, portfolio investments infused into the system still registered a deficit of $405 million in the first two months of the year. Last year's deficit in portfolio investments amounted to $685 million.

The central bank noted, however, that current account continued to post a surplus of $1.234 billion or 9.8 percent better than last year's $1.124 billion. In January alone, current account registered a surplus of $518 million.

The BSP said that relative to its program level, the current account surplus in the first two months of the year was $270 million higher. A current account surplus indicates stronger export earnings against import expenditures.

From the projected BOP surplus of $70 million this year, the BSP was targeting the surplus to further improve to $1.189 billion next year.

The BOP surplus, according to the BSP, should hit $2.191 billion in 2003 and $2.701 billion in the following year as surplus in current account is seen to decline to $5.306 billion and $3.643 billion during the two-year period. These targets were presented earlier to the International Monetary Fund.

The errors and omission entry in the BSP's BOP data registered a deficit of $149 million, an improvement from last year's $238 million. This, according tot he BSP, consists of exports booked as earnings but have yet to materialize as actual gains due to delayed payments.

Foreign creditors and investors use the BOP and current account figures as measures in determining the country's ability to pay its imports and loans.

BSP to keep key rates steady

A SLOWER-THAN-EXPECTED economic growth in the first quarter was not enough to convince the policy-making Monetary Board of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas to further cut its key rates.

BSP Deputy Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said monetary authorities were convinced that the current overnight borrowing and lending rates of 9 percent and 11.25 percent, respectively, are low enough.

Tetangco said the BSP was awaiting the inflation numbers for May to determine if the economy can still accommodate further rate cuts. The BSP sees the May inflation to range between 6.7 percent and 6.9 percent.

The BSP is also waiting for the US Federal Reserves' move before making adjustments in the local rates.

The government yesterday announced a gross domestic product growth of 2.5 percent and a gross national product growth of 3.6 percent in the first quarter.

Lower interest rates are expected to fuel economic activities and lead to higher growth.

Tetangco noted that the growth in GNP was within expectations although gains in GDP were slightly below target. Analysts had projected a 2.7-percent growth in GDP in the first quarter.

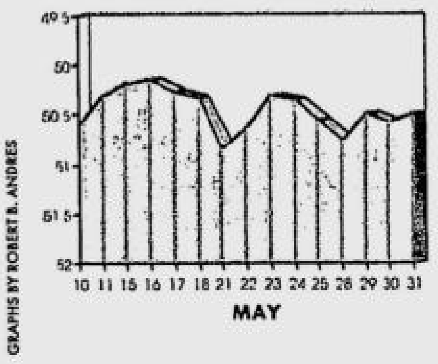
"We have to see what the May inflation numbers would be and its implications on future inflation. We also have to await for any US Fed action," said Tetangco.

US analysts are anticipating another 50 basis points cut in the US short-term interest rates to 3.5 percent when the US Fed meets in late June. Tetangco said the BSP was inclined to match any further cuts in the US rates this month. *Clarissa S. Batino*

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO - DOLLAR



Peso-Dollar Rate

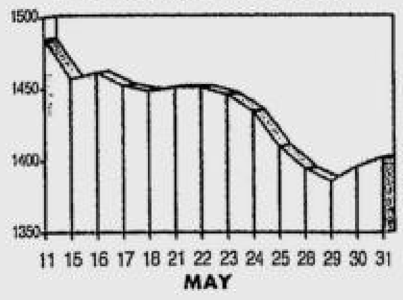
₱50.50 = $1
As of 5 p.m.,
May 31, 2001

¥ 119.06 = $1
The US dollar was trading
at 19.06 as of 5 p.m.,
May 31, 2001

GOLD:$266.10/266.60
per ounce Hong Kong,
May 31, 2001

STOCK MARKET

PSE Composite Index



(See stock market report on Page B4)

Stocks up

SHARES yesterday ended with a marginal gain as bargain hunters accumulated select stocks following recent market weakness, traders said.

Investors were neutral to the first-quarter economic data released by the government early in the session as the numbers yielded no surprises, traders said.

The 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index ended slightly above its 1,400-point trendline resistance with a gain of 5.79 points, or 0.4 percent, to 1,402.29, after rising 0.8 percent Wednesday. Excluding the previous session's gain, the index has lost 4.6 percent in six straight trading days.

Among the most active stocks was blue chip Metropolitan Bank, which rose P3 to end at P214 on 392,400 shares traded on bargain hunting. *AP*

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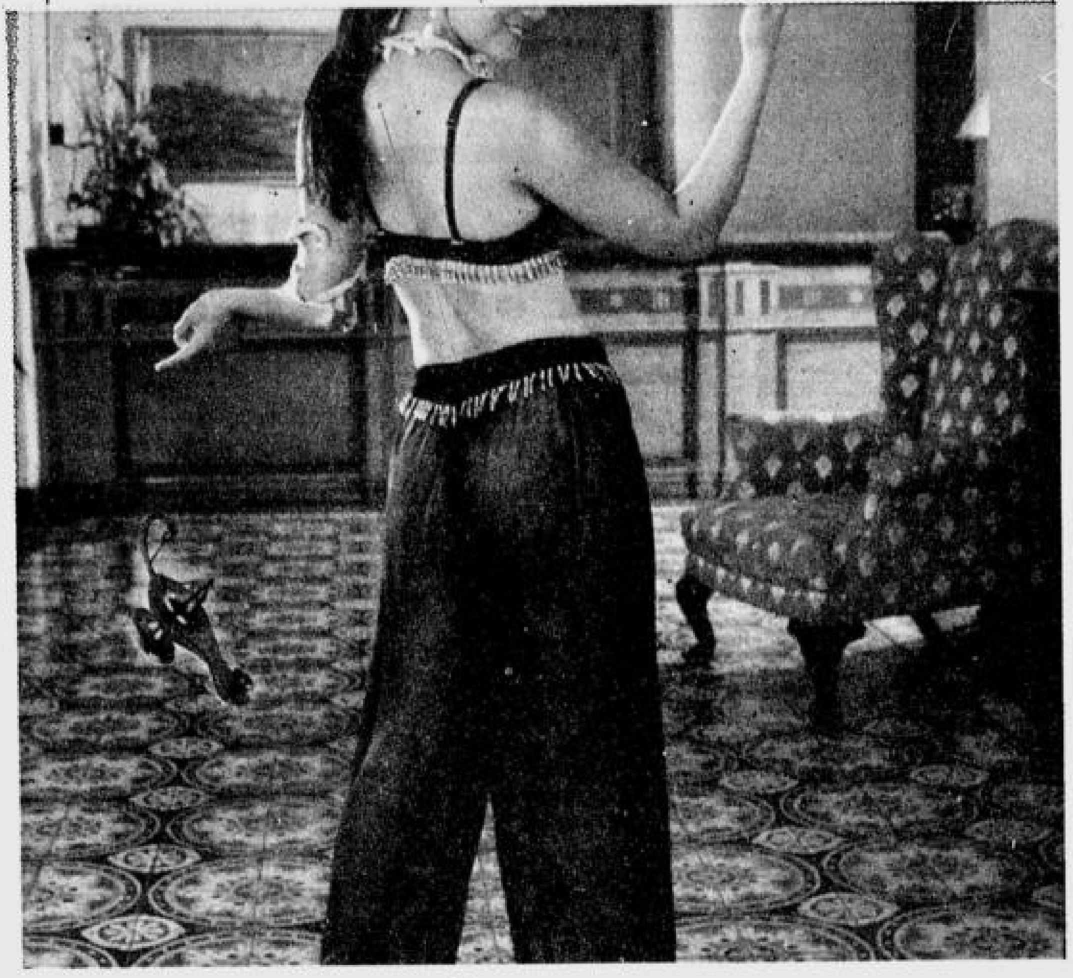

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Maynilad employees cry foul over proposed 10% salary cut

By Christine A. Gaylican

EMPLOYEES of the Maynilad Water Services Inc., the water distribution arm of the Lopez group, have accused management of violating the Labor Code after it announced plans to cut the salaries of 2,400 employees by 10 percent effective this July.

Maynilad Supervisors Association and the Kaisahan at Kapatiran ng Mga Manggagawa at Kawani sa West Zone, comprised of supervisors and rank-and-file employees, said in a manifesto that the imminent salary cuts violated Articles 112 and 116 of the Labor Code.

These provisions in the Labor Code prohibited employers from "interfering with the freedom of any employee to dispose of his wages."

"Aside from not consulting the union members, if we prefer not to choose any of their given options, our area managers will schedule our mandatory vacation leaves without pay and/or the 10-percent reduction of monthly basic pays," the union groups said.

MWSI management led by its president Rafael Alunan III earlier gave employees the option to either retire, go on a one-month leave without pay or agree to a 10-percent pay cut as part of its urgent plan to cut costs.

MWSI is hard pressed to radically cut down costs due to mounting losses. It traced its financial difficulties to the delay in the government's approval of its proposed rate hike needed to cover for increased costs following the depreciation of the peso against the US dollar.

"The 10-percent deduction on their salaries from the top management may not mean nothing for them, but for us it means a lot to our day-to-day survival," the manifesto said.

"Why do we have to pay the price for the wrong doings of our management? It is difficult for us to gamble with these options considering that this would mean reneging on our financial obligations and job opportunities," the manifesto added.

The supervisors group said they submitted an alternative cost reduction program to management but it was not discussed.

On the other hand, the Kaisahan at Kapatiran ng Mga Manggagawa at Kawani sa West Zone, comprised of rank-and-file employees group, requested a dialogue with Alunan, but was denied.

"It seems they are not doing their part, they would rather chop the ax on the workers as their modern sacrifices," the supervisors' manifesto said.

Jesus Matubis, Maynilad's assistant vice president for public affairs, explained that the proposed salary cuts and the mandatory vacation leaves without pay were better options than retrenching employees.

Maynilad is owned by a consortium led by Benpres Holdings Corp. Its service area includes Manila, Pasay, Las Piñas, Malabon, Muntinlupa, Valenzuela, Navotas, Parañaque, Bacoor, Kawit, Imus, Cavite City, Noveleta, Rosario and parts of Taguig and Quezon City.

GMA Network posts ₱26-M profit in Q1

GMA Network Inc., the country's second largest media company, posted a net income of P26 million during the first quarter, a turnaround from its P28-million loss incurred in the same period last year.

The 193-percent growth in its net income was attributed to the increase in the network's advertising rates and improvement in the loading of its TV operations. Radio also posted a modest 9 percent growth in revenues to P4.3 million compared with last year.

Gross revenues in the first quarter increased by 26 percent from P593.4 million to P745.1 million. Operating expenses, on the other hand, went up by P49 million, 21 percent more than last year's level but still within the budget.

Overhead costs rose following the operation of its new building facility, the GMA Network Center.

GMA has set aside a P472-million capital expenditure budget this year for the acquisition of new equipment and upgrading of its facilities.

Earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization (EBITDA) posted a dramatic 41 percent improvement compared with last year's level, indicating a healthy cash flow position.

During the first quarter, the company's EBITDA was at P298.9 million compared with P211.6 million last year.

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The power bill is anti-labor

LABOR MANAGEMENT FORUM

Josephus B. Jimenez

BY the time this column sees print, the power bill may or may not have gotten congressional approval. Nonetheless, we wish to make of record our views on the matter. This bill can further divide the nation and will decidedly exacerbate the conflict between the rich and the poor. The threat of unabated brownouts is a shameless blackmail.

This government is unwittingly courting disaster by pushing hard for the passage of this highly contentious and controversial proposal immediately after a highly divisive and fractious electoral contest. This proposed legislation is anti-labor, anti-consumer, anti-poor and anti-Filipino. The lame duck Congress wants to pass it at a time when many of its members have just been rejected resoundingly by the electorate.

The bill is highly deceptive and Malacañang's campaign to force it upon the people borders on the bizarre, especially that GMA had just survived a near rebellion last Labor Day.

This bill is a sufficient provocation to a highly agitated citizenry and is pushing the people to the point of explosion. The powers that be might not have prudently assessed the highly volatile and far-reaching chaos that may result, posing a grave and imminent danger to the Republic.

A betrayal against the poor

President GMA's unabashed pushing for its passage may betray the government's utter lack of sincerity in its pro-poor campaign. There are too many secrets and mysteries in the bill that the poor are not being told. And to ram it down the throat of the masses at a time when they are starting to distance themselves from Erap, is indeed a monumental, if fatal PR mistake.

GMA's pro-poor propaganda blitzkrieg, which is designed to steal the *masa* from Erap's court, may fall flat on its face. Blackmail won't work.

20,000 jobs threatened

The poor are not being told that the bill will pave the way for the privatization of the giant corrupt-ridden, white elephant called NPC, which over the years, has generated too much pains and disillusionment among the Filipino consumers.

And privatization will necessarily entail loss of jobs, not only of Napocor employees but also of Meralco and the employees of other IPPs (independent power producers). These means hundreds of thousands of sons and daughters having to drop out from schools, and thus paving the way for multiple social problems.

Oppressive to consumers

The poor are again being enticed to embrace the advent of NPC's privatization by the glowing promises of lower electricity prices. This is wishful thinking, if not a downright lie. The poor remember that this was the same promise made by FVR when the oil deregulation bill was proposed.

This was the same empty promise being peddled to drum up support for Petron's privatization. Did the oil price go down? No.

This was also the same line that was promised to the people when MWSS was about to be privatized. What now? Both the Maynilad Water of the Lopezes and the Manila Water of the Ayalas are imposing on the consumers the currency exchange rate adjustment (Cera), which would shield them from the fluctuations of the peso dollar rate and make the consumer carry the burden of their foreign purchases.

They are reportedly seeking for a revision in the rates in 2002 and a 225-percent hike in charges by 2003.

Favoring the capitalists

The bill was designed to promote the interests of the oligarchs against the poor. For it seeks to condone the existing onerous contracts with IPPs, instead of reviewing or rescinding them. Then it passes on the burden of paying the NPC's gargantuan debt to the tune of more than P6 billion to the government and ultimately to the people.

The bill actually encourages monopoly because there is no absolute ban against cross-ownership and interlocking directorships between owners of generating firms and those of distribution companies.

The unkindest cut of all is that distribution companies are allowed to recover their stranded costs by passing on to the consumers through the so-called "universal charge." Stranded costs are schemes whereby the government pays the power generator and then charge the consuming public to recover the losses incurred because of corruption and inefficiencies.

Expose the sweetheart deals

Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile warned that this power bill will cover up for the secret sweetheart contracts entered into by generating firms owned by same family as the distributing firm. The senator argued that the Filipinos should not be made to pay for the stranded costs of P20 billion that resulted from the transactions of two firms with interlocking ownership.

It is held that when profits are earned, they go to owners. If losses are incurred, they are shifted to the masses. Enrile was even quoted as saying that Meralco allegedly passed on to the consumers its annual multibillion tax liabilities through the onerous implementing rules supposedly issued by the Energy Regulatory Board.

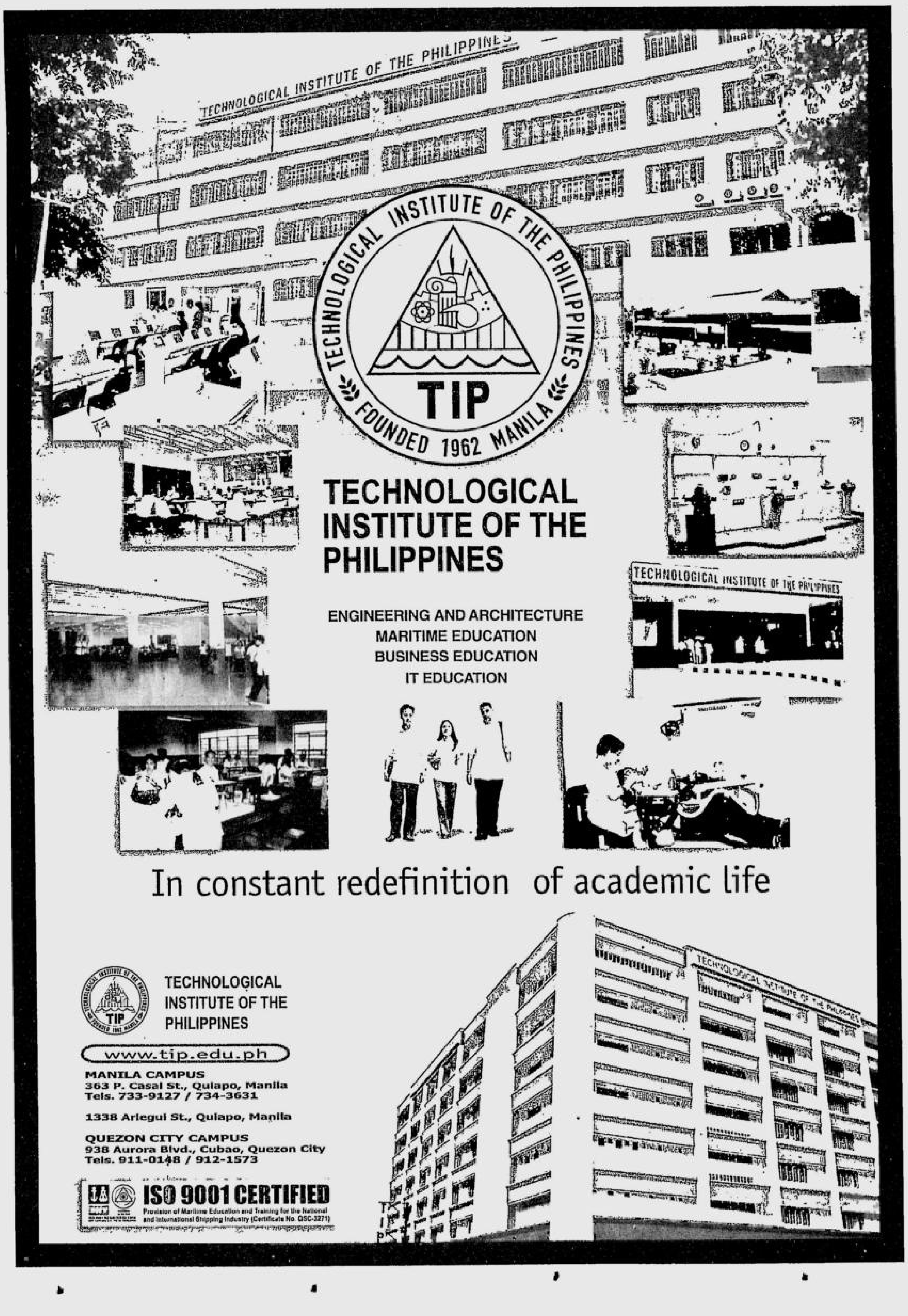
Civil society should stand up

It was the civil society that installed GMA to the presidency and supported her 13-0 senatorial slate. Since a major component of that society belongs to the labor sector, urban poor, the middle class and the consuming public, it is only just and proper that an immediate inquiry be done whether or not the President is still committed primarily to the welfare of the people.

For all we know, the President has already entered into a deal with the IMF, and its local minions, and the power bill is just a part of that deal. If so, then the battle lines are drawn. And the masses will know what to do.

We, in the civil society, worked hard for GMA's candidates. And if this is our reward for supporting the government all the way, perhaps we just deserve it for being too naïve and too believing. But then, they can't fool all the people all the time.

(*For comments, you can reach the writer at the following e-mail address: josephus.jimenez@pcppi.com.ph*)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Reghis and Romeos

COCKTALES

By Victor C. Agustin

REGHIS Romero II, the Smokey Mountain contractor who is allegedly one of the 20 hostages snatched by the Abu Sayyaf bandits from the Palawan resort, is now supposed to be in worse danger from his wife, if we go by the nasty round of text messages and cocktail talk going around.

The rumor, repeated even among high government and media circles, claimed that the Pangalatok contractor was supposed to have been rounded up in his resort room in the company of a 32-year-old lady friend, who happened to be not his wife.

The wife, so the spin went, thought that Romero had been in the United States when all along the husband was in Dos Palmas for what now appeared to be a karmic dirty weekend.

Before the talks got even wilder—one joke even claimed that the wronged wife had donated P5 million to the Abu Sayyaf just to ensure that Romero would not be returned to her—Cocktales decided to make some inquiries.

Guess what we found? Romero has been legally separated from his wife since the mid-'90s. He is, therefore, a free man, a recycled single man who is free to date whoever he wants to. In short, *inggit lang kayo!*

(By the way, the San Jose Builders, whose P300 million with Philippine National Bank is way past due, is not controlled by Romero, as reported in this column Wednesday, but by Gerry Acuzar.)

Mischievous spirits

EDGARDO Espiritu, the Estrada-era finance secretary, was more amused than annoyed at Wednesday's report in Cocktales that an unknown group of Wincorp creditors had assembled a photo album of seven US properties belonging to Espiritu and his children.

Espiritu sent us a copy of his 1998 statement of assets and liabilities to prove that, contrary to the spin being peddled, he declared even his US assets when he joined the Estrada Cabinet.

What Espiritu could not understand was why he was the target of the Wincorp creditors when his stake at the failed investment house, according to him, was only 10 percent (shareholdings which he said he had also divested when he joined the government) whereas 75 percent of Wincorp were controlled, at 25 percent each, by commodities trader Manuel Tan, the Cua family and the Santa Lucia Group.

Espiritu also said that the P175 million he got when he divested from the INQUIRER had also been locked in, and may have forever been lost, in Wincorp-issued commercial papers.

"I am in a similar boat as they are," he said, referring to the Wincorp creditors.

Short takes

- MEGAWORLD has acquired the two-story W&W Building in Legaspi Village's Aguirre Street for an undisclosed amount.

According to the grapevine, the publicly listed real estate developer plans to develop a 30-plus story residential condominium within the next three years. It has already filed an application to demolish the '70s-era building with the City Hall.

To those unfamiliar with Legaspi Village, W&W is the building right next to the new Somerset condominium of one-time Erap booster, Elsie Chua of the Quadrillion Group.

- TAIPAN Henry Sy, who is now the de facto *kapitan* of publicly listed Belle Corp., plans to spin off Tagaytay Highlands resort to separate the money-making mountain resort from the ailing entertainment and gaming concern.

Belle, according to the grapevine, is inclined to take the offer even if it means losing its profitable and prestigious subsidiary just to lighten Belle's multibillion-debt load.

After the transfer, Sy of course would choose Tagaytay Highlands over Belle.

Heard through the grapevine

THE BANK deposits as well as real and personal properties of former Prime Minister Cesar E.A. Virata and Diana Pardo-Aguilar, daughter of former Trade Secretary Jose Pardo, have been ordered garnished by a Makati judge pending the final outcome of a collection suit filed by a group of creditors against a corporation where Virata and Aguilar are officers/shareholders.

(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)

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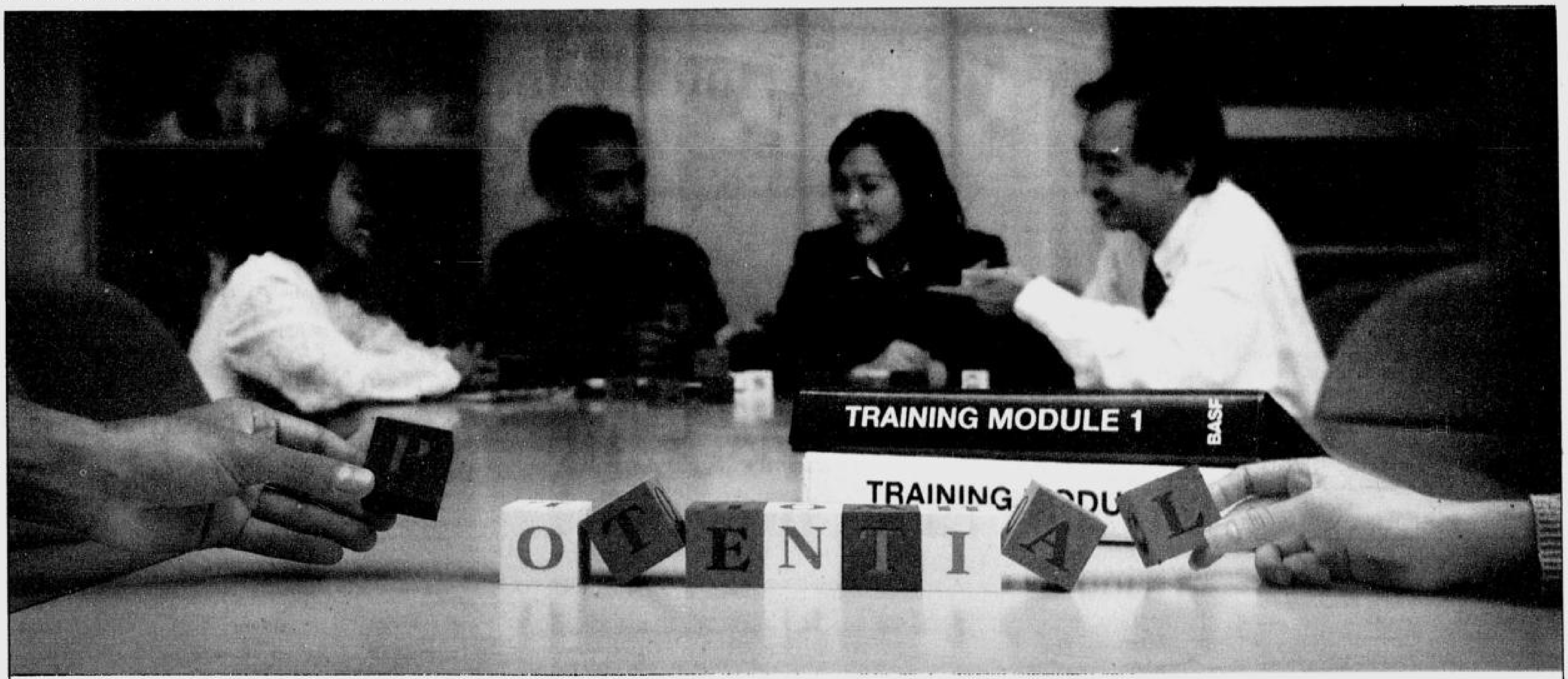

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POOR MARKET CONDITIONS

Singapore brokerage house shutting down RP operations

By Doris C. Dumlao

SECURITIES 2000 Inc., an affiliate of Singapore Technologies, yesterday said it would shut down its operations in the country on July 2.

It will be the fifth foreign brokerage house in the country to close shop this year due to poor market conditions.

"We wish to confirm that the board of directors of Securities 2000 has decided to voluntarily suspend the company's operations indefinitely beginning July 2, 2001 due to continuing unfavorable market conditions," the brokerage house advised the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday morning.

In an interview with the Inquirer, Securities 2000 president Erwin Tan said the company would continue its backroom operations for one more month to liquidate or transfer existing accounts.

The four others that earlier closed shop their Philippine operations due to the dearth of trading opportunities here were UOB Securities and OCBC Securities, both of Singapore; Nomura Securities, and Orion Squire Capital Inc. Sec2000 will thus be the third Singaporean affiliate to resort to suspension of operations this year.

Last year, five brokerage houses also closed shop namely, Topwin Securities, Paribas Securities (due to its merger with BNP Securities), Phileoallied Securities Philippines, Sun Hung Kai Securities, FEB Securities (due to the merger between Bank of the Philippine Islands and Far East Bank and Trust Co.) and UPCC Securities.

PSE president Ramon T. Garcia earlier said the exchange was bracing for further shakeout, especially among foreign brokerage houses, due to the prolonged drought in the local stock market. All the casualties so far this year are foreign-owned.

"It's been difficult to continue operating in the Philippines because of the thin market," he said.

In view of this development, Garcia appealed to the Securities and Exchange Commission to suspend the broker-dealer rule saying such a move might help reverse the losing streak especially among these big foreign houses.

Garcia said the smaller brokers were the ones that would most likely to survive the poor market conditions in the country.

"The big ones are the first ones to be hit because they have higher overhead costs. The smaller ones are more resilient. They have more staying power because they have lower overhead costs," he said.

AirPhils embarks on five-year dev't program

AIR Philippines Corp. is embarking on a five-year development program that will see the country's second largest carrier expand its fleet, fly to Asia-Pacific destinations and enhance its technical capabilities.

The airline has already allocated P1 billion to fund the initial phase of its expansion and modernization program, highlighted by the acquisition earlier this month of two new Boeing 737-300 aircraft.

The twin-engine jets are currently deployed on Air Philippines' 15-point domestic network but will eventually serve neighboring Asian destinations once the Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB) approves Air Philippines' application to operate internationally.

The full implementation of Air Philippines five-year plan hinges on the CAB's favorable endorsement of the program.

"The recent arrival of the two B737-300s is just the first step. More aircraft are forthcoming as we seek better ways to serve our customers. This is all a concrete manifestation of our commitment to the riding public and the nation," said Air Philippines president and chief executive officer Capt. Rogelio M. Narciso.

Air Philippines fleet expansion will underpin its bid to open international services to neighboring points not currently served by flag carrier Philippine Airlines but which have good commercial potential.

These destinations include Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; Bangkok, Thailand; Kaohsiung, Taiwan; Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei; and Guam.

DOLE'S P5.7-B EXPANSION

President Macapagal-Arroyo listens to David H. Murdock, chair and CEO of US-based Dole Food Co. Inc., outlining Dole's P5.7-billion expansion program in the country, during a call in Malacañang recently. Murdock was accompanied by his wife Tracey, Dole Asia president Paul Cuyegkeng and Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Q. Montemayor.

ICTSI minority agrees to sell to Hutchison

By Doris C. Dumlao

MINORITY shareholders of International Container Terminal Services Inc. (ICTSI) have agreed to sell their 49-percent stake in ICTSI's international holding company to the Hutchison Whampoa group of Hong Kong.

With this deal, Hutchison will end up controlling 74 percent of ICTSI International Holdings Corp. ICTSI has already agreed to sell to Hutchison International Port Holdings Ltd. its 25-percent stake in the holding firm.

Analysts expect ICTSI to generate around $400 million to $450 million in cash from the sale of its stake in IIHC, which operates eight container terminals in Argentina, Mexico, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, Tanzania and Thailand.

The deal excludes newly awarded port contracts in Suape, Brazil, which ICTSI still plans to pursue.

Razon said an ICTSI subsidiary, International Container Terminal Holdings Inc., still held 43.27 million preferred "B" shares representing 36 percent of the outstanding shares of IIHC.

He said ICTHI had given Hutchison the option to likewise buy its stake after one year.

ICTHI will also sell its interest in Ensanada Cruiseport Villlage SA, an operator of a Mexican cruise port, to Hutchison.

The other shareholders of IIHC are JP Morgan Capital LP, Sixty Wall Street Fund LP, Kane & Co., Capital International Global Emerging Markets Private Equity Fund LP and the ICTSI employees stock ownership plan.

Hutchison International Port holds and manages port and related services worldwide, operating a total of 136 berths in 19 ports together with a number of transportation-related service companies.

"The sale of IIHC will strengthen the balance sheet of ICTSI. It will enable ICTSI to become substantially debt free within the flexibility to pursue new port projects here and abroad," Razon said.

Under the agreement with Hutchison, ICTSI is barred from engaging in port projects in countries where IIHC operates within the next four years.

ICTSI and Hutchison earlier clashed over a controversial contract to operate and upgrade a container port in Subic Bay Freeport way back in 1997.

DISCLOSURES

RE-ELECTED to the board of **Benpres Holdings Corp.** were Felipe Alfonso, Oscar Lopez, Manuel Lopez, Eugenio Lopez III, Christian Monsod, Steve Psinakis and Washington Sycip.

* * *

JG Summit Holdings Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on July 25, not June 25 as earlier reported.

* * *

GRAND Plaza Hotel Corp. will hold a special stockholders' meeting on June 18, 10:30 a.m., at the ballroom of the Heritage Hotel Manila, Pasay City.

* * *

THE BOARD of **Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.** approved the appointment of Yoshiaki Kawamata as advisory board member effective immediately, replacing Kimisake Fujimoto who resigned on April 30.

* * *

THE ANNUAL stockholders' meeting of **Boulevard Holdings Inc.** scheduled on June 27 was reset to July 25. It will be held at the Grand Boulevard Hotel in Manila at 3 p.m.

* * *

THE BOARD of **Alcorn Gold Resources Corp.** rescheduled its annual stockholders' meeting, set in its by-laws every second Friday of June, to June 29. It will be held at the Manila "B" Room of the Makati Shangri-La Hotel at 2:30 p.m.

* * *

DUE to the ongoing strike of the employees of **Club Filipino**, the board of **Corro-Coat Inc.** authorized its management to consider an alternative venue for its annual stockholders' meeting on June 18.

* * *

THE BOARD of **Chinatrust (Phils.) Commercial Bank Corp.** resolved to reduce the number of its directors from 10 to eight.

* * *

STOCKHOLDERS of **Semirara Coal Corp.** approved the change in its name to **Semirara Mining Corp.** Also, elected as officers were Victor Consunji, president; Herbert Consunji, treasurer; and lawyer Mary Catherine Hilario, secretary. ***Compiled by Armin P. Adina, PDI Research***

Napocor earmarks ₱21B for 2001 capex program

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE NATIONAL Power Corp. yesterday said it was earmarking P21.8 billion for its capital expenditures this year.

The amount, Napocor said in a statement, was 37.5 percent more than last year's P16.2 billion.

Of this year's capex, P10.9 billion was earmarked for transmission line projects while P6.5 billion will go to the rehabilitation of and parts purchases for certain Napocor facilities.

The state firm's financial planning department also said that P1.2 billion of the amount would be paid as interest on loans, that were used to finance various projects.

This year's capex forms part of Napocor's five-year capex program recently approved by its board. However, the five-year program has yet to be approved by the Department of Budget and Management.

The debt-laden, state-owned company said it was planning to finance its capex program primarily through foreign loans and grants, and partly through internally generated cash.

The government intends to privatize Napocor through the spin-off and sale of its various assets. The agency has $6.7 billion in direct liabilities.

Napocor said its capex next year might be more than double of this year's level.

The anticipated increase was due to the scheduled rehabilitation of the Tiwi-Makban geothermal complexes.

Operated by Philippine Geothermal Inc., the facilities in Albay and Laguna have an aggregate installed capacity of 550 megawatts.

The 2002 capex will also cover the Leyte-Mindanao interconnection project.

Other projects covered by the 2001 and 2002 capex include the Leyte-Bohol interconnection, the uprating of the Leyte-Cebu interconnection, the Kabakan switching and 138-kilovolt transmission line, the reinforcement of the General Santos-Tacurong transmission line and the Abaga-Kirahon 230-kv transmission line.

CAB seen to decide today on Cebu Pacific's petition

THE CIVIL Aeronautics Board is expected to decide, in a meeting today, on Cebu Pacific Air's application for permits to operate scheduled international services.

The airline said it has applications for permits to fly to Singapore, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, Guam, Japan, China, Korea, Taiwan and the US.

The carrier has already obtained its Temporary Operating Permit for international unscheduled flights which allowed Cebu Pacific to operate charter services outside the country.

"We are positive that the CAB will see the merits of our application, and recognize the need for a second Philippine official carrier," said Cebu Pacific president and CEO Lance Gokongwei.

The Department of Transportation and Communications has expressed its willingness to designate another official flag carrier to promote healthy competition within the industry, which is expected to benefit the flying public. Likewise, the multi-sectoral Economic Mobilization Group (EMG) pointed out the need for another official flag carrier, and has found the need for another official flag carrier, and has found Cebu Pacific to be capable of mounting international flights.

The five-year-year-old company controls a third of the local market, and is the dominant carrier for intra-Visayas-Mindanao flights using Cebu as its hub.

In its first three years of operation, it averaged a million passengers per year. It hit the five millionth mark seven months prior to its fifth year anniversary. It logged its six millionth passenger last April barely two months after it turned five years old.

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Thursday, May 31, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco Filipino Sav & Mort	100	100	100	100	100
Bank of the Phil. Islands	74.5	76.5	74.5	76	526,400
China Banking Corp.	680	680	680	680	5,780
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	41	41	40.5	40.5	40,300
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	212	215	211	214	392,400
Prudential Bank	460	460	460	460	300
Philippine National Bank	50	51.5	49.5	51.5	109,200
Rizal Comm'l Bkg Corp. A	25.5	25.5	25.5	25.5	3,000
Security Bank Corp.	20	20.75	20	20.75	6,200
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc..	1.42	1.42	1.42	1.42	19,000
Filipino Fund Inc.	0.38	0.4	0.38	0.4	240,000
First Metro Invest. Corp.	248	250	248	250	900
Manulife Financial Corp.	1270	1275	1270	1275	4,650
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1075	1075	1050	1050	2,690
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	37.5	38	37.5	38	51,800
Diversified Fin. Network	8	10	8	10	14,000
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.41	0.41	0.41	0.41	370,000
Globe Telecom Inc..	685	685	680	685	7,050
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	100,000
Piltel	0.64	0.73	0.62	0.62	3,470,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	665	665	650	650	73,470
Philweb.Com Inc..	0.04	0.041	0.039	0.041	66,300,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	41	41.5	41	41	307,500
Manila Electric Co. B	60	62	60	61	1,275,800
Petron Corp.	1.84	1.94	1.84	1.9	4,532,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.2	1.2	1.18	1.18	100,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.26	2.26	2.18	2.22	11,523,000
Negros Navigation Co. Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	110,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.3	1.4	1.3	1.4	31,000
Union Cement Corp.	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	298,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.12	2.12	2.1	2.1	351,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	3.25	3.55	3.25	3.45	4,000,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13	13	13	13	115,000
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	27.5	27.5	27	27	77,300
RFM Corp.	1.02	1.02	0.99	1	882,000
San Miguel Corp. A	41.5	41.5	41	41.5	43,700
San Miguel Corp. B	46.5	47	46.5	46.5	346,000
Universal Robina Corp.	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	86,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	480,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	7.2	7.2	7.2	7.2	73,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.56	1.66	1.56	1.66	5,238,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	11.75	12	11.25	11.5	27,900
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc..	0.76	0.78	0.76	0.78	340,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.48	0.49	0.45	0.48	20,330,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	30,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	110,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.4	1.54	1.4	1.48	12,801,000
Crown Equities Inc.	1800	.18	.17	.17	300,000
Southeast Asian Cement	.2000	.2	.2	.2	20,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	.3200	.32	.28	.28	13,320,000
Ebecom Holdings Inc.	.1250	.125	.125	.125	200,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	.0420	.042	.042	.042	400,000
Fil-Estate Corp.	.5100	.51	.51	.51	10,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.00	1.04	1	1.02	224,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp	23.75	24	23.75	23.75	376,400
Forum Pacific Inc.	.3	.3	.3	.3	100,000
Global Equities Inc.	.2200	.23	.22	.23	3,350,000
Guoco Holdings (Phils.)	.1700	.175	.17	.17	3,740,000
Ionics Inc.	11.50	11.5	11.5	11.5	103,600
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.98	2	1.98	2	100,000
Megaworld Corp.	.7300	.74	.73	.73	690,000
Magnum Holdings Inc.	2.50	2.5	2.5	2.5	6,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	.2900	.3	.29	.3	760,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	.4700	.5	.47	.5	2,230,000
Philtread Holdings Corp.	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75	5,000
Solid Group, Inc.	.4800	.53	.48	.51	6,650,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	.2800	.29	.26	.29	610,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	.2400	.25	.24	.25	1,110,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Interphil Labs Inc. "A"	1.00	1	1	1	25,000
Music Corp.	1.80	1.82	1.7	1.72	384,000
Central Azucar Don Pedro	.8900	.89	.88	.88	50,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	15.00	16	15	16	175,400
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	.4500	.46	.44	.46	580,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	.4500	.48	.45	.47	3,920,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	.4800	.48	.48	.48	750,000
Manila Jockey Club	13.00	13.25	13	13.25	904,300
Philippine Racing Club	5.10	5.1	5.1	5.1	5,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp (Pdr)	37.00	38	37	38	505,000
DMCI Holdings, Inc- Pref.	490.0	490	490	490	16,440
Globe Telecom Hldg (Pdr)	690.0	690	690	690	800
Omico Corp. Warrant	.0028	.0028	.0028	.0028	169,000,000
RFM Corp. - Pref.	2.60	2.6	2.6	2.6	20,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series P	10.00	10	10	10	2,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Q	10.00	10	10	10	15,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series R	10.00	10	10	10	29,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.00	10	10	10	41,000
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10.00	10	10	10	37,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.00	10	10	10	11,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.00	10	10	10	18,000
Philweb.Com Inc. –Warrants	.0310	.032	.03	.03	46,800,000
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	8.00	9	8	9	7,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	4.90	5	4.9	4.95	9,405,000
C & P Homes Inc.	.3000	.31	.3	.31	6,560,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	.2900	.29	.29	.29	1,850,000
Empire East Land Inc.	.3100	.32	.31	.31	6,220,000
Edsa Prop. Holdings, Inc.	1.20	1.2	1.2	1.2	10,000
Filinvest Land, Inc.	2.04	2.12	2.04	2.08	2,820,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.40	6.5	6.4	6.4	4,860,000
Universal Rightfield Prop	.0900	.09	.08	.08	12,000,000
MINING					
Itogon-Suyoc Mines "A"	.0140	.014	.014	.014	6,200,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co "B"	.1700	.17	.17	.17	540,000
Omico Corp.	.0042	.0042	.0042	.0042	65,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. "A"	.1800	.18	.18	.18	190,000
Philex Mining Corp. "B"	.2050	.205	.205	.205	1,350,000
United Paragon Mining Co.	.2300	.23	.23	.23	300,000
OIL					
Interport Res.	.0040	.004	.004	.004	1,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. "A"	.0042	.0042	.0042	.0042	10,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. "B"	.0040	.004	.004	.004	11,000,000
Sinophil Corp.	.0650	.07	.065	.07	200,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	1,350,920	144,437,940.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	391,562,410	333,412,255.00
PRO	43,725,000	88,888,500.00
Mining	73,580,000	831,550.00
OIL	22,200,000	103,500.00
GRAND TOTALS:	532,418,330	567,673,745.00

	AVERAGES	
Banks & Fin Svc	606.16	UP 4.17
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,942.50	UP 4.83
PRO	521.80	UP 2.50
Mining	1,101.61	DOWN 15.88
OIL	1.43	UP 0.03
All Shares Index	747.12	DOWN 7.25
Composite	1,402.29	UP 5.79

NO. OF ADVANCES: 42; NO. OF DECLINES: 25; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 42; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 109; NO. OF TRADES: 3,146

CURRENCIES

May 31, 2001

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.166453	1.000000	50.5840
Japan	Yen	0.009694	0.008311	0.4204
United Kingdom	Pound	1.664761	1.427200	72.1935
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.149551	0.128210	6.4854
Switzerland	Franc	0.656122	0.562493	28.4531
Canada	Dollar	0.755474	0.647668	32.7616
Singapore	Dollar	0.644378	0.552425	27.9439
Australia	Dollar	0.599103	0.513611	25.9805
Bahrain	Dinar	3.094204	2.652661	134.1822
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.311054	0.266667	13.4891
Brunei	Dollar	0.643205	0.551420	27.8930
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000103	0.000088	0.0045
Thailand	Baht	0.025712	0.022043	1.1150
UAE	Dirham	0.317618	0.272294	13.7737
Korea	Won	0.000905	0.000776	0.0393
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.857300	43.3657
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.438331	22.1725
France	Franc	0.152450	0.130695	6.6111
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453780	0.389026	19.6785
Austria	Schilling	0.072672	0.062302	3.1515
Belgium	Franc	0.024789	0.021252	1.0750
Italy	Lire	0.000517	0.000443	0.0224
Finland	Markka	0.168188	0.144188	7.2936
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.004276	0.2163
Spain	Peseta	0.006010	0.005152	0.2606
Luxemburg	Franc	0.024789	0.021252	1.0750
Ireland	Punt	1.269738	1.088546	55.0630

Fed presidents warn of economic weakness

NORTHBROOK, Illinois—Economic weakness, not inflation, still poses the main threat to the US economy, Federal Reserve policymakers said Wednesday, adding that the mix of tax cuts and credit easing should help boost growth.

But the Fed presidents sent no single message on how fast a recovery might come or its strength, underlining a sense in financial markets that the sputtering economy might take until well into next year before it could regain its full vigor.

"My optimism about the long term is not necessarily matched by optimism about the short term," Dallas Fed president Robert McTeer said at a San Antonio Economic and Business Society luncheon.

While McTeer, usually known for his sunny outlook, said he did expect the US to skirt recession—often described as two back-to-back quarters of negative growth—he did not know whether the economy currently was contracting.

A cautious tone also was struck by Chicago Fed president Michael Moskow.

"We now expect to see improvements later in the year, but there are significant risks facing us," Moskow said in addressing the Rotary Club of Wilmette, a Chicago suburb.

Those risks included higher energy prices, weak economies abroad and soft consumer confidence, Moskow said.

Both sets of comments echoed Fed Chair Alan Greenspan, who last week said the US economy still was at risk of further economic weakness. US Treasuries and stock markets, largely sidelined as they awaited the May US employment report on Friday, were little moved by their remarks.

The $1.3-trillion tax-cut package just approved by Congress was cautiously welcomed by both Fed officials.

Moskow said its timing was much more appropriate than past fiscal stimulus efforts by Congress, but he added its full impact would depend on whether consumers spent the tax-cut money or saved it.

McTeer, however, said he was looking for a mild economic boost starting this summer when tax refund checks would be mailed out.

"While this may not be the ideal tax cut, it should provide some helpful stimulus spread out over the next three quarters of a year to a year," he said.

And he discounted speculation on Wall Street that the fiscal stimulus would put an early end to Fed monetary easing, saying the central bank generally responds to real economic conditions—not tax policy.

The Fed has lowered short-term interest rates by a steep 2.5 percentage points to 4 percent in the past five months to counter the rapid economic slowdown. President Bush also pressed his tax cut, saying it was needed to shore up growth.

While most economists expect the Fed to cut rates at least another quarter percentage point, some Wall Street firms now say tax cuts reduce the need for much more monetary easing.

Neither Fed official gave any hints on future credit easing, though they made clear they view cuts so far as laying the ground for a recovery.

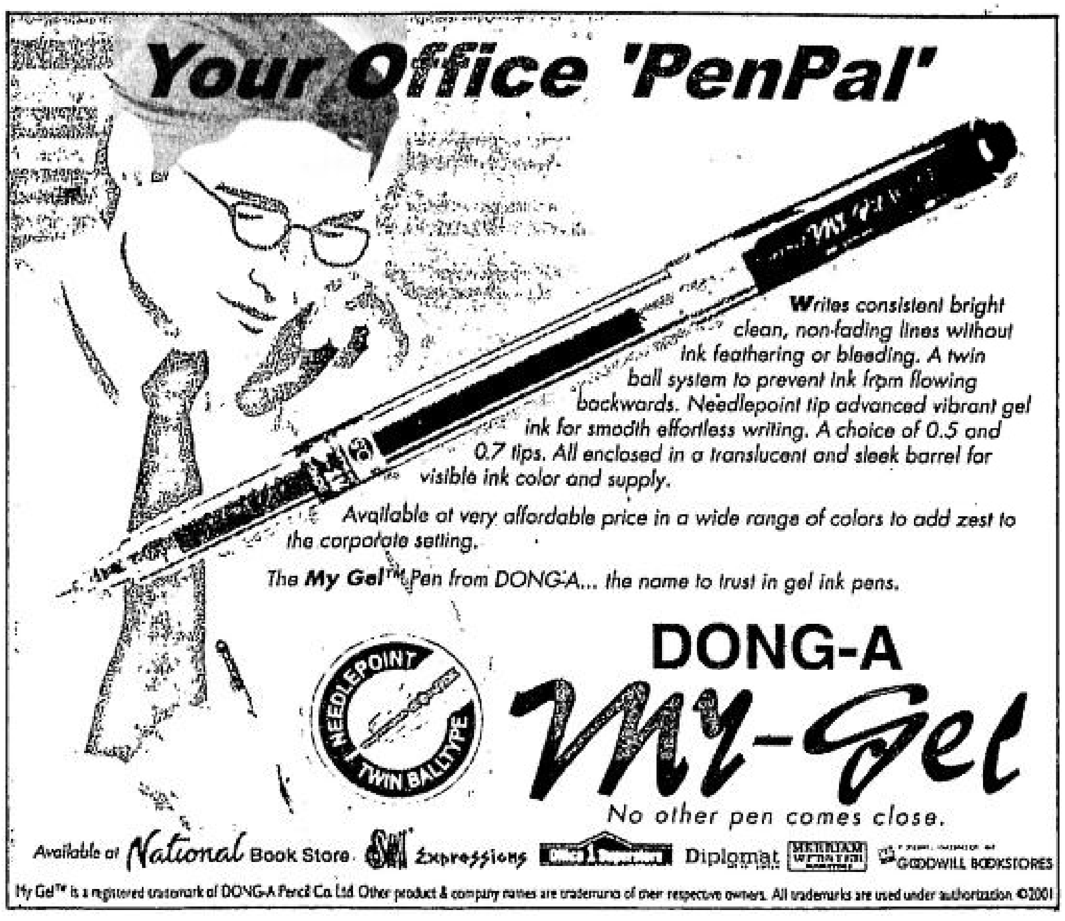
"The Fed's prompt response to the subpar economic growth of recent quarters reduced the likelihood that economic weakness would continue in 2002," Moskow said.

McTeer said so far consumers had been the bright spot in an economy that was hurtling along at a 5-percent annual growth rate a year ago and then slammed on the brakes late last year as manufacturing slowed sharply and inventories built up.

First-quarter growth slowed to a crawl at 1.3 percent, and McTeer said he doubted the final revision to first-quarter GDP, due at the end of June, would take that figure below zero.

"I just think it is possible for consumption to hold up long enough to get that (manufacturing) going," McTeer said.

Reuters



Writes consistent bright clean, non-fading lines without ink feathering or bleeding. A twin ball system to prevent ink from flowing backwards. Needlepoint tip advanced vibrant gel ink for smooth effortless writing. A choice of 0.5 and 0.7 tips. All enclosed in a translucent and sleek barrel for visible ink color and supply.

Available at very affordable price in a wide range of colors to add zest to the corporate setting.

The **My Gel**™ Pen from DONG-A... the name to trust in gel ink pens.

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Japanese banks risk further weakening, rating firm warns

TOKYO—US credit risk evaluator Standard and Poor's warned of further weakening of Japanese banks' financial health yesterday, saying their recovery was hampered by new bad loans and the flagging stock market.

Standard and Poor's said the banks' financial profiles would "remain fragile and at risk of further deterioration should the protracted economic downturn worsen."

"Recovery in the bank's performance remains constrained by the emergence of new problem loans, weak loan demand, and continuing stock market sluggishness," the agency said in a statement.

The warning followed the annual financial results last week of major Japanese banks, which revealed them to be mired in massive bad loans.

Mitsubishi Tokyo Financial Group Inc., one of the top four banks in Japan, said its non-performing loans in the year to March surged 55.4 percent to 4,460 billion yen ($37.2 billion).

Its rival, UFJ Holdings Inc., said its bad loans during the year rose 13.7 percent to 2,906.87 billion yen ($24 billion).

Both Mitsubishi Tokyo Financial and UFJ Holdings plunged into the red in the year to March, blaming provisions against their mammoth amount of bad loans for the poor earnings.

Standard and Poor's said it would not change the ratings on the major banks immediately, but warned it might review the ratings and outlooks "if Japan's economy worsens beyond current expectations."

The banks, the US agency said, "need to undertake stronger measures to increase their revenues, realize the benefits of consolidation and work quickly to decrease their stock portfolios."

"In addition, they need to clean up non-performing assets quickly to reduce their credit costs to manageable levels," it said, while acknowledging such a task would be difficult "given the severe environment."

It also argued the government should take measures to support banks' bad loan write-off efforts.

"To restore the health of the financial industry while avoiding systemic crisis, Japanese bank regulators face challenges in accelerating the disposal of bad loans," it said.

"Additional measures are needed to support the disposal of bad loans, such as the activation of a real estate market and a secondary loan market," the agency said.

AFP

Prestige Cars, Inc.
The Ultimate Driving Machine
BMW roadster
On June 2 and 3 it's worth taking a closer look

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Finance minister says Japan's 'bubble' NPLs nearly cleared

TOKYO—Non-performing loans accumulated during Japan's bubble economy in the late 1980s would be totally cleared in a year, Financial Affairs Minister Hakuo Yanagisawa said Thursday.

"Banks' bad loans accumulated in the bubble period have been nearly resolved and will be completely resolved in a year," Yanagisawa told a parliamentary Lower House fiscal and economic policy committee.

"From now on the Financial Services Agency is entering a stage of dealing with new bad loans, which emerge in 2001 and beyond," he said.

But Yanagisawa warned earlier the level of new NPLs was far higher than he had anticipated.

Disposal of bad loans had progressed, "but we still have new bad loans. I thought the amount of bad loans would be lower," he told a regular news conference on Tuesday.

According to internal calculations by the government's FSA, the level of bad loans held by Japan's 16 major banks stood at 11.6 trillion yen ($96.7 billion) at the end of March, down from 12.7 trillion yen last September.

Although the big lenders disposed of NPLs worth 4.4 trillion yen, they recorded 3.4 trillion yen in new NPLs.

The net decrease in NPLs was only 1.1 trillion yen, meaning new bad loans were piling up almost as quickly as lenders disposed of old ones.

AFP

South Korea eases regulations

SEOUL—The South Korean government on Thursday eased restrictions on conglomerates to help them cope with worsening economic troubles.

The deadline for top 30 conglomerates to cut holdings in sister firms to 25 percent of net assets was extended by one year to March 2003, the Ministry of Finance and Economy said.

Deputy Minister Kwon O-Kyu said the government also decided to ease other restrictions imposed in the past three years, which were designed to curb reckless expansion by the conglomerates, known as chaebol.

"The government will keep its reform framework intact but will ease some rules to promote exports and investment," he said.

The chaebol's investment in other companies aimed at strengthening core businesses would not be subject to stock investment limit rules, he said.

But the ministry refused to lift a 200-percent debt-to-equity ratio ceiling, the centerpiece of a reform drive by President Kim Dae-Jung.

Top conglomerates have been forced to reduce debt and shed non-profitable companies since Kim took office in early 1998.

The chaebol have been blamed for the disaster that struck South Korea when the Asian financial crisis erupted in 1997 due to their reckless expansion with easy cash from compliant state-run banks.

But the conglomerates spoke out against corporate reforms this year as the government's drive came to a standstill and the economy began sliding.

After a 6.7-percent contraction in 1998, South Korea's economy made a speedy recovery, growing 10.7 percent in 1999 and 8.8 percent in 2000.

The growth began falling sharply this year, with exports plunging and inflation picking up to an annual rate of 5.3 percent in April. Financial markets have been unstable.

Kim's drive led to the dramatic collapse of the Daewoo Group in 1999 under $80 billion of debt.

South Korean conglomerates, however, are still powerful despite pressure for their influence to be reduced.

AFP

Record firms bulk up for boom

SAN FRANCISCO—The giant chess game that is the online music world saw another move Tuesday, when German-based media giant Bertelsmann's E-Commerce Group acquired Myplay.com, a California music storage website.

The reported $30-million acquisition came just a week after France's Vivendi Universal media company purchased MP3.com, another California-based digital online music management website.

The BMG acquisition is the latest move by the record industry's preparation for an anticipated online music avalanche.

Both Myplay and MP3.com are Internet music storage sites. Users can copy songs from CDs or other sources onto personal "lockers" for retrieval from other computers or portable devices.

The technology is a crucial component of a full-service music distribution scheme, says David Pakman, co-founder and president of Redwood City, California-based Myplay.

A locker, Pakman says, allows users to take songs out of a record company's catalog and keep it for fast retrieval and play. Locker technology also lets users create playlists of songs arranged, say, by theme or artist, which can then be easily recorded onto a blank CD.

"You don't want to keep going back and searching for songs you like," said Pakman. "Lockers make online music experience much more easier for consumers."

AFP

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•OFC Staff 9134470 Aynah

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AUCTION SALE

Stargem Pawnshop 26-A E. Rodriquez Sr. Ave. Q.C. We Sell All Expired Pledges on July 2, 2001 at 9AM J. Enriquez Lic. Auctioneer

Unigem Pawnshop 3-E N. Ramirez St. Q.C. We Sell All Expired Pledges on July 2, 2001 at 9AM J. Enriquez Lic. Auctioneer

PUBLIC NOTICES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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Supervisor US$ 8951381

TShirt Sale 4383147

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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that th estate of the late Jose Castill of Ususan Taguig MM ha been extrajudicially settled b his heirs as per Doc. No. 6 Page No. 15. Book No XXXVI Series of 2000 of Notary Publ Primitivo C. Cruz PDI May 2 e 1 & 8. 2001 1301

Notice is hereby given th the estate of the la ISIDRO TRIBIANA SR and GLORIA TRIBIANA wh died on Oct 12, 1990 ar May 20 1992 respective is the object of ext judicial settlement of esta by and among his/her leg heirs and is entered Doc. No. 218 Page No. 4 Book No. 235 Series 2001 in the notarial regi try of Atty. Hector Centeno, Notary Pub Commissioned until De 31, 2001 PTR No. 19736 (PDI--June 1, 8 and 15, 2001

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PHILIPPINE HEART CENTER
East Avenue, Quezon City 1100, Philippines,
Telephone 925-2401

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The Philippine Heart Center (PHC) invites sealed written bid for one (1) unit: Gas Sterilizer, non-toxic.

Only duly accredited bidders/suppliers will be allowed to participate in the bidding. List of requirements to be submitted:

1. Letter of Intent
2. Article of Incorporation and by-laws
3. Business License
4. Financial Statement (last 2 years)
5. ITR for the last 2 years
6. Location map of office
7. DOH Accreditation
8. List of clients and contact person
9. Product list with certificate of exclusive distributorship and brochure
10. Certificate of trainings for service engineers
11. Notarized certificate of authority to sign and represent the company
12. Certificate of major parts availability

All interested bidders/suppliers must submit their accreditation documents on or before June 18, 2001 at Purchasing Division.

The PHC reserves the right to disqualify any prospective bidder/s if found that they have submitted falsified documents and/or information and the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at anytime prior to award of contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder/s.

(Sgd.) ROMEO J. SANTOS, M.D.
Chairman, PBAC

(PDI – May 25, 26, 27, June 1, 2 & 3, 2001)

NOTICE

This is to inform the public that **HOSOKAWA ASSEMBLY INC.** has transferred from its office at Building 4, Celery Road, FTI Complex, Taguig, Metro Manila to its new location at Building A5 Granville Industrial Complex, Bo. Bancal, Carmona, Cavite.

(PDI – June 1, 2001)

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INQUIRER TRiViA

By BONG BARRAMEDA

Eye bags

Q. What causes bags under the eyes?

A. There are many possible causes. To start with, the eyelids are among the thinnest, softest areas of skin in the body: Normal skin is around 2 millimeters thick, but eyelid skin is only 0.5 millimeters thick.

Fluid retention can cause puffiness because when you are retaining fluid and lie down, gravity draws the fluid to pool in such thin areas. Some common causes of fluid retention are medications like cortisone as well as thyroid diseases, kidney problems and chronic heart failure.

But there are many less serious reasons that are often overlooked, according to experts. Any irritation, from sunburn to cosmetics, could be the culprit, so the first step in fighting bags is looking for allergies.

In some cases, puffiness results from a protrusion of excess fat around the eyes. There are two fat pads on the upper lid and three on the lower, giving many people that tired, haggard look. These tend to be hereditary and not related to obesity, and can be removed in plastic surgery. Still another common cause of puffiness is excessive growth of the muscle around the eye, especially in people who smile or squint a lot.

For the Record. The head of the common house fly is dominated by a pair of large compound eyes containing approximately 4,000 image-forming elements called *ommatidia*. Each cone-shaped ommatidium consists of a lens, a crystalline rod, and a collection of light-sensitive cells. Compound eyes are only found in arthropods such as insects and crustaceans.

WORD WATCH

Blepharoplasty (bleh far-oh plas-tee) : removing excess skin and fatty tissue from eyelids and the eye area.

PDI – June 1, 2001

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Telefax No.: (02) 687-43-11
E-mail: *risephilippines@hotmail.com*
Text: 0919-212-3230 / 0919-592-4258

ALL CONSUMERS WHO ARE INTERESTED TO EARN ADDITIONAL MONTHLY INCOME, & LOCAL SUPPLIERS MAY VISIT/CALL THE FOLLOWING BUSINESS CENTER OPERATIONS (BCOs):

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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
KAGAWARAN NG EDUKASYON, KULTURA AT ISPORTS
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, CULTURE AND SPORTS
DECS Complex, Meralco Avenue
Pasig City, Philippines

PILIPINAS 2000
Sama-Sama sa DECS

Tanggapan ng Pangalawang Kalihim
Office of the Undersecretary

INVITATION TO BID

The Department of Education, Culture and Sports (DECS) through the Health and Nutrition Center (HNC) is inviting all suppliers and printers to bid for the purchase of 90,000 capsules of Vitamin A for pupils afflicted with Vitamin A deficiency and for the printing of 2,500,000 pieces of individual health cards for all pre-school and Grade I pupils in public elementary schools nationwide.

All interested suppliers and printers must submit a Letter of Intent before obtaining documents starting May 30 to June 6, 2001 at the BAC Secretariat Office, Rm 112-A, Mabini Bldg., ULTRA Complex, Pasig City.

A pre-bid conference will be held on June 21, 2001, 9:00 AM for Individual Health Cards and 10:30 AM for Vitamin A at Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal Bldg. I, ULTRA Complex, Pasig City. The submission and opening of bids will be on June 28, 2001 at the same time and place mentioned above

DECS-BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids to waive deficiencies embodied therein without assuming any obligation whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of the bids.

(Sgd.) ERNESTO S. PANGAN
Undersecretary
Chairman DECS-BAC

(PDI--May 30, 31 & June 1, 2001)

National Power Corporation

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID AD NO. PD 2001-28

Rebidding Date: June 11, 2001 - 10:00 A.M.

PB010522-T3JR6148	ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS (Integrated Circuit, Transistor, Diode, Rectifier, etc.)
PB010522-T3JR6150	ENGINE ASSEMBLY, surplus, 4D56, 4 cylinder
PB010522-T3JR6151	REGULATOR, Nitrous Oxide for Atomic Absorption Spectrophotometer PN BS 303-0349
PB010522-T3JR6152	COMPUTER, Notebook/COMPUTER PRIPHRALS (Hard Disk, etc.) / SERVICES: Repair of Laptop Computer
PB010522-T3WC6153	PHOTOGRAPHIC SUPPLIES (Blank Tape, Album, Fuim, Battery Pack)
PB010522-T3WG6178	PAPER, Refractory, Size: 3.175 mm X 1 000 MM X 1000 MM
PB010522-T3JR6181	PREVENTIVE/CORRECTIVE MAINTENANCE SUPPLIES (Electrical Tape/Battery, Adhesive, Automotive Wire, etc.)
PB010522-T3WG6186	SERVICES: One Year Supply of Labor, Tools, & Equipment for the Preventive Maintenance of 1 Unit Inductotherm VIP-Power Tak R Series with Two Furnaces
PB010522-T3JR6182	SERVICES: Jor Order for Gear Cutting of Internal Gear - 14 Teeth

**Bidding Date: June 18, 2001 - 10:00 A.M.

2001-28-01	TELECOMMUNICATION MATERIALS/SUPPLIES (Telephone Set Cord
2001-28-02	Modular/Utility Box, Terminal Lug, Wire Marker, Bolts & Nuts, etc.)
2001-28-03	MIRROR, Frameless Plate Glass, Size 24" x 36"
2001-28-04	ARGON GAS, Ultra High Purity, 99.999% Min Ar Cylinder Size: Standard
2001-28-05	OFFICE/COMPUTER SUPPLIES (Bond paper, Paper Clip, Correction Fluid, Toner Cartridge)
2001-28-06	AUTOMOTIVE SPARE PARTS for Mitsubishi Pajero, Model 1991
2001-28-07	LAMP, Halogen/Incandescent
2001-28-08	HARDWARE SUPPLIES (Pipe, Elbow, Faucet, Hose, etc.)
2001-28-09	SERVICES: Supply of Labor & Materials for the Installation of Swing Door/Fixed Panel at Training Center Bldg. & At Bldg. 1, Ground Floor
2001-28-10	SERVICES: Supply of Labor & Materials for the Water Proofing of Gutters at Training Center per attached drawing and specifications.

Interested parties are invited to prequalify and to submit sealed bids on the above to be opened publicly at the Sampaguita Rm. Ground Floor Bldg. 2 NPC-OBC, Quezon Avenue cor. Agham Road, Diliman, Quezon City.

Accreditation forms can be obtained from Mondays thru Fridays at the Accreditation and Bidding Support Services, Materials Management Department, Ground Floor, Bldg. 2 upon payment of P50.00, submission of company's Tin and proof of listing at the telephone directory. **Deadline for submission of duly accomplished forms to participate in this bidding is on June 7, 2001.

Bidding documents available on May 31, 2001 upon payment of P50.00 which is non-refundable, presentation of original Certificate of Accreditation and supplier's number (DCE). **Last day of issuance of bidding documents June 13, 2001.

Issuance of accreditation forms and bidding documents mornings only, 8:30 to 11:30 A.M. For inquiries please call no. 921-25-74.

The Corporation reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any defect therein and accept the offer most advantageous to the Corporation

MATERIALS MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT
NPC-OBC (Head Office)
Diliman, Quezon City

(PDI -- May 31 & June 1, 2001)

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DECS Complex, Meralco Avenue
Pasig City, Philippines

PILIPINAS 2000
Sama-Sama sa DECS

Tanggapan ng Pangalawang Kalihim
Office of the Undersecretary

INVITATION TO BID

The Department of Education, Culture and Sports (DECS) through the Health and Nutrition Center (HNC) is inviting all manufacturers/suppliers of fortified instant noodles to bid for the procurement of 726,336 packs of iron fortified instant noodles for the implementation of Breakfast Feeding Program of the Department.

All interested manufacturers/suppliers must submit a Letter of Intent before obtaining bid documents starting May 30 to June 6, 2001 at the BAC Secretariat Office, Rm. 112-A, Mabini Bldg., ULTRA Complex, Pasig City.

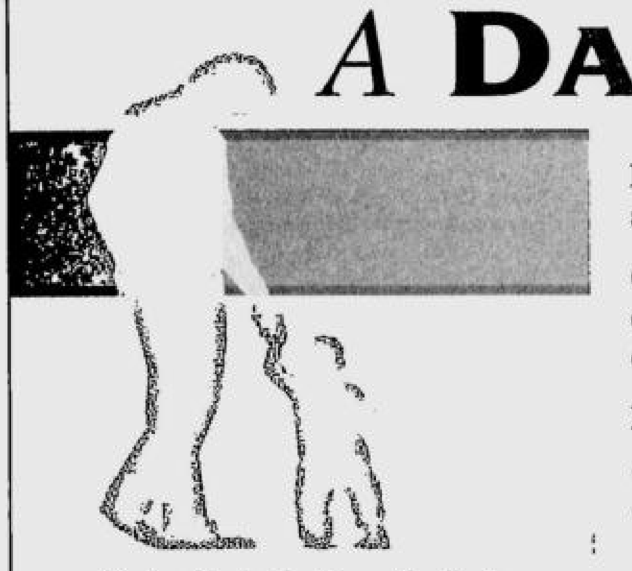
A pre-bid conference will be held on June 20, 2001, 10:00 AM at Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal Bldg. I, ULTRA Complex, Pasig City. The submission and opening of bids will be on June 27, 2001 at the same time and place mentioned above.

DECS-BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids to waive deficiencies embodied therein without assuming any obligation whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of the bids.

(Sgd.) ERNESTO S. PANGAN
Undersecretary
Chairman, DECS-BAC

(PDI--May 30, 31 & June 1, 2001)

A DAD'S DAY *Treat*



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- Rate is applicable on the June 17 issue only

SAMPLE ADS

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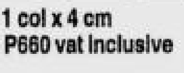
love,
Issa



size: 1 col x 4 cm
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Happy Fathers' Day Tatay Thank you for everything. I love you. Rose

size: 3 lines
cost: P165 vat inclusive

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ARSENIO SALUD LOPEZ JR.
"Jun"

December 12, 1932 – May 31, 2001

Returned to our God and Father
after having served and glorified Him in life
to now enjoy the fullness of joy and peace promised to all of us.

Opê, his loving and beloved wife, his children **Cecile** and **George Alcantara**, **Argie**, **Pia** and **Gary Lorenzo**, **Manny**, **Mike**, **Mark**, and **John**; his grandchildren **Mia**, **Bea**, **Ina**, **Billie**, and **Carla**; his sisters **Nora** (†) and **Zenette**; his brother **Dennis**; in-laws, cousins, nephews, nieces, and friends in Christ accompany him with prayers and song to his new home in heaven.

His remains lie in state at the Capilla de la Virgen Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati City.

Holy Mass will be celebrated at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, June 3, 2001.

Interment will follow at the Garden of the Risen Christ, St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori Parish, Magallanes Village, Makati City.

Our Dearly Beloved

JOSELITA CRUZ-MAGCASE

of BANGKO SENTRAL ng PILIPINAS

Peacefully joined our Lord on May 29, 2001
at the age of 61.

Her bereaved and loving husband **Jun**; children **Mica**, **Reg** and **Ring-Ring**, **Rodney**, **Robin**; grandchildren **Ria** and **Red**; uncles, aunties, cousins, other relatives and friends request all pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Loyola Memorial Chapels in Guadalupe, Makati City.

Interment will be on Saturday, June 2, 2001 at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque after the 9:00 AM Mass at St. Andrew the Apostle Parish, Bel-Air, Makati City.

Col. LUCAS D. ARCIBAL

(October 18, 1928 - May 27, 2001)

WAKE: San Martin de Porres Chapel
United Hills Village (UPSI), Parañaque City

INTERMENT: June 2, 2001, Saturday
(after Funeral Mass)
Libingan ng mga Bayani, Fort Bonifacio

FUNERAL MASS: June 2, 2001, 7:45 AM, Saturday
San Martin de Porres Main Altar

"The Lord is Risen, Alleluia!"

I am
the way,
the truth
and
the life.
No one
comes
to the
Father
except
through
Me.
John 14:6

CRISANTA G. TANJUATCO

was called to the Lord on Tuesday, May 29, 2001
at the age of 86.

Her bereaved brothers, **Teofilo Sr.** (†), **Emigdio Sr.**, **Francisco**; sister **Pilar**; nephews, nieces, grandnephews and grandnieces and other relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the family residence, No. 5 P. Burgos, Tanay, Rizal.

Details of the interment will be announced later.

VICENTE GAMAN APOSTOL

(1942 - 2001)

Died on May 28, 2001 at the age of 58.

His bereaved wife, children, children-in-law, grandchildren and relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

Interment will be at La Loma Catholic Cemetery, Caloocan on Sunday, June 3, 2001. For further details please contact tel. no. 044-7941712.

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CAPITOL MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
1305 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City
Tel. 732-0309, 732-1095

CEBU ROLLING HILLS MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
Cebu Branch A.S. Fortuna Street, Banilad,
Mandaue City, Cebu
Tels. 346-2543; 346-2601

COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.
Nivel Hills, Lahug, Cebu City
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COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.
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P500-M coop housing loan inked

THE NATIONAL Housing Authority (NHA) and the Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP) recently inked a P500-million loan agreement creating a cooperative housing program that will help boost efforts of the Arroyo administration to curb the creeping housing shortage throughout the country.

NHA general manager Edgardo Pamintuan said the joint undertaking, known as the LBP-NHA Cooperative Housing Program, extends credit facilities to cooperatives which are implementing housing programs for their homeless members.

Cooperative Housing Program, a demand-responsive housing approach, encourages cooperatives to finance production of affordable housing units out of their own resources and through credit facilities from financing institutions secured by the cooperative themselves. To date, a total of 81 cooperatives throughout the country have entered into an agreement with NHA for the implementation of the program.

The signing of the MOA by Pamintuan and LBP chief executive officer Margarito Teves was graced by President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo during her recent visit in Pampanga. Also present during the signing were Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC) chair Michael Defensor and LBP executive vice president Jesus Diaz.

Under the agreement, NHA is committed to provide technical assistance to housing cooperatives such as project planning and implementation, fund sourcing and buyer's financing. The LBP provides P500-million loan fund to qualified cooperatives for land development and construction of housing units.

The fund will have an interest of 9 percent for socialized housing package of P180,000 and below, and 13 percent for housing projects above P180,000, payable in 15 years.

The program will initially benefit 66 cooperatives which are owners of land found suitable for housing. About 568 hectares of land have been acquired through the internally generated funds of the cooperatives. The initial projects will generate a total of 11,417 housing units nationwide.

BITS & Clips

Figaro joins food franchising

FIGARO Coffee Company will again be joining the Food Franchising 2001, the 5th International Food Franchising and Business Systems Exposition on Sept. 5-8 at the World Trade Center Metro Manila. The expo will gather the various business establishments and open the doors of the lucrative franchising market to local entrepreneurs. Figaro Coffee Company, a homegrown coffee shop chain, has been franchising since 1998 and now counts 20 outlets, nine of which are franchises. Those interested in the food franchising business may contact Trade Information Marketing & Exhibitions Inc. at 834-0085 to 86; fax 831-3828 or e-mail time@skyinet.net. You may also visit www.tradeinfo.com.ph.

Philippine Furniture Festival opens

THE 20th Philippine Furniture Festival: Feelin'@Home is currently ongoing at the Megatrade Hall 2, 5th Level, SM Megamall B until June 3. The festival showcases the best in Philippine furniture design and workmanship. Organized by the Chamber of Furniture Industries of the Philippines (CFIP), in cooperation with Citibank, the biannual furniture festival has gathered the leading players of the country's furniture industry, which shall make available their world-class creations for local public consumption at affordable prices, made more affordable with Citibank's Paylite scheme. The furniture fest will be capped off with a raffle for a garden set for buyers who have made P2,000 worth of purchases.

Pinoys in Aussie triathlon

ON JUNE 3, in the City of Cairns, Queensland, Australia, Filipino athletes will compete for the "Cairns Half Ironman Triathlon" competition. The event calls for a 2-km swim, a 90-km bike and a 21.1-km race along the shores and mountain ranges of Port Douglas. One of the Filipino athletes competing in this event is long distance triathlon specialist Karlo G. Magpayo, a Makati business executive. Karlo Magpayo plans to participate in a full Ironman event on Nov. 3 at Panama City, Florida. Current sponsors of Magpayo's race in Cairns are Red Corner Fitness and Boxing Gym Club, Caramba Bar and Restaurant, KGM Technologies Inc. (www.kgmtechnologies.com), Arthouseasia.com (online art gallery), Multiconnections Inc., and Velocity Bike Shop.

9th Cebu trade expo slated

CONSTRUCTION Show Cebu 2001, the largest and longest running construction-infrastructure trade event in the Visayas begins today up to June 4, 2001 at the SM City Cebu Trade Hall. In spite the economic setbacks of the past few years, Cebu Island remains the top investment site in Central Visayas based on statistics from the Board of Investments (BOI). Construction Show Cebu 2001 carries on the multi-objectives of providing a venue for relevant and updated products, facilitating project collaborations, expediting technology transfer, and as a forum for discussion of ideas and issues relevant to the industry in the new millennium.

Animal affair at vet congress

DO you care enough to fight for animal health and welfare? Avail of the best and the latest sideshows featured in the Third International Animal Feeds and Veterinary Drugs Congress ongoing until June 3 at the World Trade Center, CCP Complex, Pasay City. The Philippine Veterinary Drug Association (PVDA) invites the general public and mass media practitioners to special events involving "man's best friend," "our feathered and feline friends" and other companion animals. For additional details, contact the secretariat c/o Aileen Ramos-Manuel, PVDA executive secretary, AFSD Building, BAI Compound, Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City at 920-1754/924-1764/924-7951/928-2837; telefax 928-3453/924-7954 or via e-mail: info@pvda.org.ph, afsd-bai@qinet.net and aezville@cheerful.com.

Bodega sale at Cosmic Center

A Bodega sale of up to 80-percent discount is ongoing until June 17 at new Cosmic Center Building, at the crossroads of Metropolitan Avenue and Pasong Tamo Streets. The attractions include a state-of-the-art motorcycle display called Citibyke Center. The Planet Cellular offers a complete lineup of cellular phones, accessories, all prepaid cards and computer repairs. Y's Buy offers complete music cassettes, CDs, hardware, household items and toys. A furniture and IT Center features an Internet café. Cosmic Center is now available for lease or joint venture. Call 899-9817/18, 899-9595 loc. 386/352/339. Look for Cel or Noli.

People, Events & Products

ARIES B. ESPINOSA, Assistant Editor

E-MAIL: aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Alaska focuses on higher-yielding milk business

EFFECTIVE April, Alaska Milk Corporation (AMC) has disengaged from its exclusive distribution agreement with Nabisco Philippines and Quaker Oats. This comes on the heels of the recent worldwide acquisition by Philip Morris of Nabisco Company and likewise a change in the ownership of Quaker Oats, Inc., both in the United States.

Over the last four years, AMC served as Nabisco's exclusive distributor of some of its well-recognized biscuit brands and has grown Nabisco's presence in the local biscuit market successfully. Eric Recto, AMC's chief financial officer, believes the disengagement from Nabisco as well as Quaker will allow AMC to focus more intently on growing its core milk business, which generate substantially higher margins for the company. He cites, "in 2000, revenues from the distribution of Nabisco and Quaker products accounted for just over 10 percent of the total AMC revenues."

"We expect that the loss of the distribution revenues will be more than offset by the improvements in volume from our own products," says Recto.

The recent change in the ownership structures of Nabisco and Quaker has altered the prospects of building more substantive relationships with both companies, and a reassessment as to the strategic advantage of continuing to pursue a distribution arrangement with them was imminent. With the ultimate objective of enhancing shareholder value, AMC's management believes focusing resources and efforts on products that yield higher margins will be a more strategic and value-enhancing route for the company to take.

Based on unaudited results, AMC ended 2000 with a net income of P388 million, a four-percent growth versus 1999 earnings on revenues of P3.8 billion. The company ended the year with a cash position on P1.3 billion and consistently generates cash from operations. Alaska is one of the country's leading manufacturers of milk products holding brand leadership in the liquid canned milk category (evaporated and condensed) and a strong position in the powdered milk segment.

CONTRACT SIGNING
SUPPORT PROGRAM
BAYVIEW
HOTEL

BIG SCHOLASTIC TIE-UP

The country's top Christian Chinese school, Hope Christian High School, recently forged an agreement with Singapore's Genetic Computer Institute on information technology education support program to beef up the school's teaching standards and computer education. The contract was signed between Hope Christian High School principal Dr. Wanda Po, Ph.D. (extreme left) and board chair Daniel Chong, and Genetic Computer's Dr. Jocelyn Abella Wong and general manager Anthony Gabitan. Witnessing the signing were (back row from left) Hope Christian vice chair Cecilio Pedro, Hope assistant principal Rev. Stewart Young, Hope directors Magdalena Uy and Basilisa Ho, and Genetic Computers managing director David Wong and marketing director Henry Wong.

ZONTA PREXY GIVES BLOOD

Mely Quijano, Zonta Club of Valle Verde president, donates blood at a recent mass blood donation by the 10 Zonta clubs of Area I, District 17. Looking on are her colleagues Dori Espiritu, Ruby Benitez, Benny Crisanto, Baby Perez-Sison, vice area director Virma Vergel de Dios, Mercy Ong, Nita Dumrique and area director Nonie T. Basilio.

NEW MACHINE INSPECTED

Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Q. Montemayor (third from left) is shown the new mobile spindle abaca stripping machine developed by the Fiber Industry Development Authority (Fida). Also in photo are Fida administrator Cecilia Gloria J. Soriano, deputy administrator Gilberto F. Layese and division chief Aurora Peralta.

GLOBE OPENS GLOBEVOLUTION IN MAJOR MALLS

Globe Telecom vice president for Centers Management Lizanne Uychaco (third from left) and assistant vice president for Marketing Annie Naval (second from right) lead Globe officers and cell phone distributors at the Glorietta in opening this year's much-awaited "Globevolution." Looking on are Globe AVP for corporate marketing Mark Amoranto (extreme left) and AVP for sales Ronald Gaerlan (second from left). Globevolution is a "cellular madness" event which runs from May 25 to June 3. Globevolution offers such perks as discounts of up to 73 percent on handset purchases, waived registration fee for all deals, SIM exchange deals, zero-cash-out and zero-interest for select credit card transactions, and special gifts, prizes and freebies. Happening simultaneously in major malls in Metro Manila, Cebu and Davao, the Globevolution venues are in Glorietta, Alabang Town Center, SM Megamall, Sta. Lucia Mall, Ayala Cebu and Victoria Mall in Davao.

Hotel launched in Palawan

THE LEGEND Hotel–Manila formally launched April its newest and finest hotel in Puerto Princesa City: The Legend Hotel–Palawan. The sound of tambuli (horn) ignited the start of the event followed by a bamboo dance to the delight of appreciative guests. It was also highlighted with a balloon-cutting by Cory Quirino, host of RPN 9's "Citiline", and The Legend Hotel's president Nelson L. Napud. The balloons unveiled The Legend Hotel–Palawan's façade, which symbolizes the formal inauguration of the hotel.

Nelson L. Napud led the toasting ceremonies to make way for the audio-visual presentation showcasing The Legend Hotel–Palawan's thrilling wonders and adventure packages.

The event was attended by the media, corporate guests, airline and travel agencies which were treated with cocktails and exciting raffle prizes, including a Palawan Vacation Royale Package as the grand prize.

Guests afterwards danced the whole night away and enjoyed the songs of the '60s and '70s with "The Rubberband."

The Legend Hotel–Palawan is located at Malvar Street, Puerto Princesa, Palawan. For inquiries or reservations, call (048)433-9076 to 78 or 434-2501. E-mail the hotel at salesppc@legendhotels.com.ph. Manila reservations office can be contacted at 633-1501 to 10, or visit www.legendhotels.com.ph for more information.

Election fever hits FHM

FROM March to June 1, FHM (For Him Magazine) and Axe give Filipino men—and women—the chance to elect the 100 sexiest women in the world for 2001—an annual FHM survey where readers are invited to vote their choices of sexy lady celebrities.

To join, readers can visit FHM Philippines' new website www.fhm.com.ph or fill out ballots found in the copies of FHM and its Summit Media sister publications Preview and Cosmopolitan. Completed ballots must be sent to 30 Edsa corner Pioneer Street, Mandaluyong, or faxed to 637-2206. Ballots and drop boxes can also be found at selected magazine outlets and Caltex Expresslube stations nationwide. Voters are allowed to nominate ten celebrities at a time, but they may send as many entries as they wish. Lucky participants can win limited edition FHM campaign buttons and invites to party with FHM and some of their worshiped female celebrities in the exclusive 100 Sexiest Women in the World victory party to be held later in June.

The final tally will be published as a special collector's edition accompanying the July issue of FHM which will be first released at the invite-only grand 100 Sexiest Women of the World 2001 victory party in June. The supplement will contain the top 100 women based on the votes, with special focus on the top ten. There will be categories such as the Women's Vote and Advertisers' Vote.

Co-presented by Axe, the 100 Sexiest Women Survey is supported by San Mig Light, Jag, Caltex Havoline and Express Lube, Smart, and radio stations City Lite 88.3, Joey@92.3, RX 93.1, 103.5 K-Lite and NU 107.5.

CJ's researcher of the year

RAYMUNDO

INTERNATIONAL property consultants Colliers Jardine (CJ) recently announced the winners of its Regional Awards for 2000. Selected from various CJ offices in the Asia Pacific region, the Philippine's Richard Raymundo was chosen as the year's outstanding researcher.

Raymundo has been commended for his high quality of service, outstanding client relations, high productivity and excellent performance in the field of comprehensive property and market analysis. He has been instrumental in providing CJ clients with the in-depth research publications and market analysis reports concerning the Philippine real estate sector.

A graduate of the University of the Philippines with a degree in B.S. business economics, he heads CJP's research division. He is responsible for the analysis of property market trends and applying international-standard forecasting techniques. Raymundo has likewise been involved in various consultancy projects for major real estate developments in the Philippines.

The Colliers Jardine 2000 regional awards ceremonies was held April 27-30 at the Great Barrier Reef, the Whitsundays in Australia.

Pfizer supports free medical program

AS PART of its commitment to improve people's health in the community, Pfizer Philippines recently sponsored Mercury Drug's "Operation Bigay Lunas 2001, Libreng Gamot" program.

The program was conducted in 47 cities and municipalities nationwide. Pfizer gave free medicines, antibiotics, painkillers and deworming medicines to 18,000 beneficiaries. Free medical consultations were also given during the event.

Pfizer is a global, research-based pharmaceutical company that discovers, develops and manufactures innovative medicines for humans and animals. It is a union between Pfizer, Inc. and Warner-Lambert—two companies that have defined excellence in healthcare. This year, Pfizer will invest US$5 billion in research and development.

NEW KARUNA COLLECTION UNVEILED

Fresh, vibrant and stylish. These are the qualities of the new Karuna Collection unveiled recently in a series of fashion shows held in SM City Fairview and SM Southmall. The first show coincided with the opening of Karuna's newest freestanding boutique located at the lower ground floor of SM City Fairview (also unveiled were the latest collections of two other teen lines, Blueberry and Boysquad, from the makers of Karuna, Wolper Manufacturing Corp., available in all SM Department Stores).

LINAHEIM SIGNS UP WITH FUJITSU

Linaheim Properties, Inc. recently signed up with Fujitsu Philippines, Inc. to help implement a web-based Package Tracking and Data Exchange Gateway. The system is primarily for one of Linaheim's managed affiliates, Airfreight 2001, Inc., sole Philippine licensee of Federal Express Corporation. With the web-based system, Airfreight's customers can easily locate and track their packages near real-time. Present during the contract-signing were (seated, from left) Francisco Tabia, Jr., marketing director of FPI Telecoms and Energy Systems Division; Felipe R. Manalang, FPI president; Guillermo Parayno Jr., president of Linaheim Properties, Inc.; and Rudy Fulo, president of Cargohaus, Inc. one of Linaheim's managed affiliates. Standing (from left) are Anna Duterte, application systems consultant of FPI software subsidiary, WeServ Systems International, Inc.; Elsa Sabularse, division manager of the public sector systems sroup of WeServ; Jowie C. Pilac, Information and Telecommunication senior manager of Airfreight 2001, Inc.; Lawyer Geraldine Paloma, legal counsel of Linaheim; and Teresita Eisma and Elizabeth Chung, members of Linaheim website project team.

TATERS EXCELLENCE

Taters Enterprise, Inc., has been given a marketing excellence award during the recent Ayala Malls Merchant Rewards held at Hotel Intercontinental Manila. Taters was best in the food category for undertaking innovative marketing programs that are both business and image-building. Taters has won this award for three years straight now. Anna Maria Tanchanco, president, Taters Enterprise (second from left) receives the award from Fernando Zobel de Ayala, chair, Ayala Land Inc. (third from left). Also in photo are Tina Esguerra, division manager, Ayala Center Makati, and Cathy Bengzon, ad and promo manager of Ayala Center, Makati.

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PLDT, MKP UNION INK CBA

PLDT recently signed a new three-year Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) with the Manggagawa ng Komunikasyon sa Pilipinas (MKP) union representing PLDT's rank and file employees. The agreement includes a P130,000 one-time lump sum grant for the first year, in lieu of a wage increase inclusive of signing bonus; P1,900-per-month wage increase effective Nov. 9, 2001 for the second year; and P2,650 per month wage increase effective Nov. 9, 2002 for the third year. Shown signing the CBA are PLDT president and CEO Manuel V. Pangilinan and MKP president Pete N. Pinlac (third and second from left, respectively). Others in photo are (from left) MKP second vice president Alex Tiongco, PLDT fixed EVP Ricardo R. Zarate and PLDT HR/OD SVP Ricky P. Vargas.

PHILAM PLANS SALES RALLY

Philam Plans officers, executives and regional and agency leaders take to the stage during the company's annual kick-off sales rally held at the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC). Highlight of the activity was the launching of the company's sales theme for the year. The rally was attended by the company's sales force coming from the Luzon, Manila South and Manila North sales divisions.

BUSINESS

Thailand cool to Ford export plan

BY GIL C. CABACUNGAN JR.

TRADE Secretary Manuel Roxas II said yesterday Thai trade officials were balking at approving Ford Motor Co.'s proposal to send to Thailand vehicles assembled in the Philippines at preferred duties under the Asean Industrial Cooperation agreement.

In an interview, Roxas told reporters Ford was meeting stiff opposition from rival assemblers in Thailand.

He said while the Philippine BOI was supporting the project, it was necessary to get Thailand's concurrence.

The Philippines has already sent former Trade Secretary Rizalino Navarro as a special envoy to Thailand.

Ford, through Ford Motor Co. Philippines Inc., wants to assemble its Escape SUV and the Laser/Lynx/323 sedan at its Sta. Rosa plant for export to Thailand and Indonesia.

Ford's Thai subsidiary, Auto Alliance Co. Ltd., where Ford has a 48-percent interest, will then ship Ranger pickups and Volvo sedans to the Philippines.

Ford is seeking to carry out the two-way trade between its Thai and Philippine subsidiaries at preferred duties of between zero and 5 percent, a steep discount over the prevailing 30-percent minimum duty on completely built-up units.

Ford currently assembles the Lynx and Ranger in Laguna mainly for domestic sales, but it remains to be seen when it will assemble the Escape.

Ford's proposal to bring in Escape units at preferred duties was rejected earlier by Malacañang, which decided to finally shut down the importation of semi-knocked down units to encourage the sale of local auto parts.

Ford's Sta. Rosa plant has a capacity of around 25,000 units a year, just a quarter of Ford Thailand's output of 100,000 units.

Ford's Aico project is expected to boost the Philippines' auto exports to between 10,300 and 19,800 units from 2002 to 2004, a big leap from its shipment of 94 units in 2000.

The major auto exporters in the region are Thailand, 141,436 units; Indonesia, 47,001 units; and, Malaysia, 12,600 units.

Aico is meant to be a precursor of the Asean Free Trade Area in 2003 to allow companies to enjoy the benefits of lower duties on intra-regional trade before the trade block takes effect.

Microfinancing reeling in more women in Asia

BY ELENA R. TORRIJOS

THE PHILIPPINES and four other Asian countries have seen a tremendous growth in the number of women availing of microfinancing despite the 1997-1998 Asian financial crisis.

In a statement, Grameen Trust, which has supported 45 new microfinancing institutions in Asia and assisted others in scaling up their operations, reported that the number of small borrowers in the Philippines, China, Indonesia, Malaysia and Vietnam grew from 55,813 in 1997 to 219,183 this year.

The average size of the loans across these five countries rose from $104 to $380, while repayment rates improved from 93.7 percent to 96.6 percent over the four-year period, the bank reported.

"What this shows, beyond doubt, is that poor women are a good credit risk, even in the most difficult economic times," Grameen Trust chair Mohammad Yunus said.

"Small business loans pave the way to breaking their poverty cycle. In just one program operating in Southern Luzon, over 1,000 women and their families crossed the poverty line between 1997 and 2000," he said.

Yunus was in the Philippines to attend a two-day Asian microcredit summit sponsored by Citigroup Inc.

Citigroup granted Grameen Trust and its partner, Grameen Foundation USA, a $1-million grant in 1999 for microfinancing projects in Asia

"Citibank is proud to have supported the expansion of the microcredit sector in Asia," Frits Seegers, executive vice president and head of Citibank's Asian Consumer Business, said. "We have a long-term commitment to the progress and vitality of the communities where our customers and employees live and work. Our partnership with microfinance institutions allows us to express that commitment in a way that is both economically and socially useful."

US e-business firm chooses RP as Asia hub

ENTERWORKS Inc., a leading US creator of electronic business software, has chosen the Philippines over India as its product development and marketing hub in Asia because of the country's high-quality and creative labor pool.

Enterworks is investing at least $2 million a year to establish its Philippine office, which will focus on rigorous testing and quality assurance of its product services in the region and develop new software products for resale. This accounts for 40 percent of Enterworks' annual capital outlay worldwide.

Enterworks chair and chief executive John Wood said the Philippine unit exceeded all the company's expectations amid the political and economic turmoil that it had to go through since starting operations last year.

Enterworks executive vice president for operations Jon Church said the company chose the Philippines because of its strategic location in Asia—it is closer to most major markets in the region than India—and the quality of Filipino information technology workers.

Church said while other companies saw risks from the exodus of multinational corporations from the Philippines, Enterworks saw it as a good opportunity to assemble a large pool of creative workers at fairly reasonable wage levels.

He said while the Philippines appeared too expensive when viewed from overseas with its high power and telecommunication costs, which were 20 to 30 times higher than that of the United States, and its wages were 30 to 50 percent higher than other Asian countries, the quality of its labor more than offset these cost factors.

He said Enterworks chose the Philippines over India despite the latter being the leading IT service provider in the world because management felt it would be easier to integrate the US and Philippine culture because of their similarities.

Enterworks, a spin-off of Virginia-based technology integrator Telos Inc., has built its own niche by providing e-marketplace solutions to integrate content and businesses in real time. Its products are easy-to-use and rapidly deployable to enable companies enjoy faster time-to-market, increased customer satisfaction, and improved supply chain interactions through the Internet.

Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

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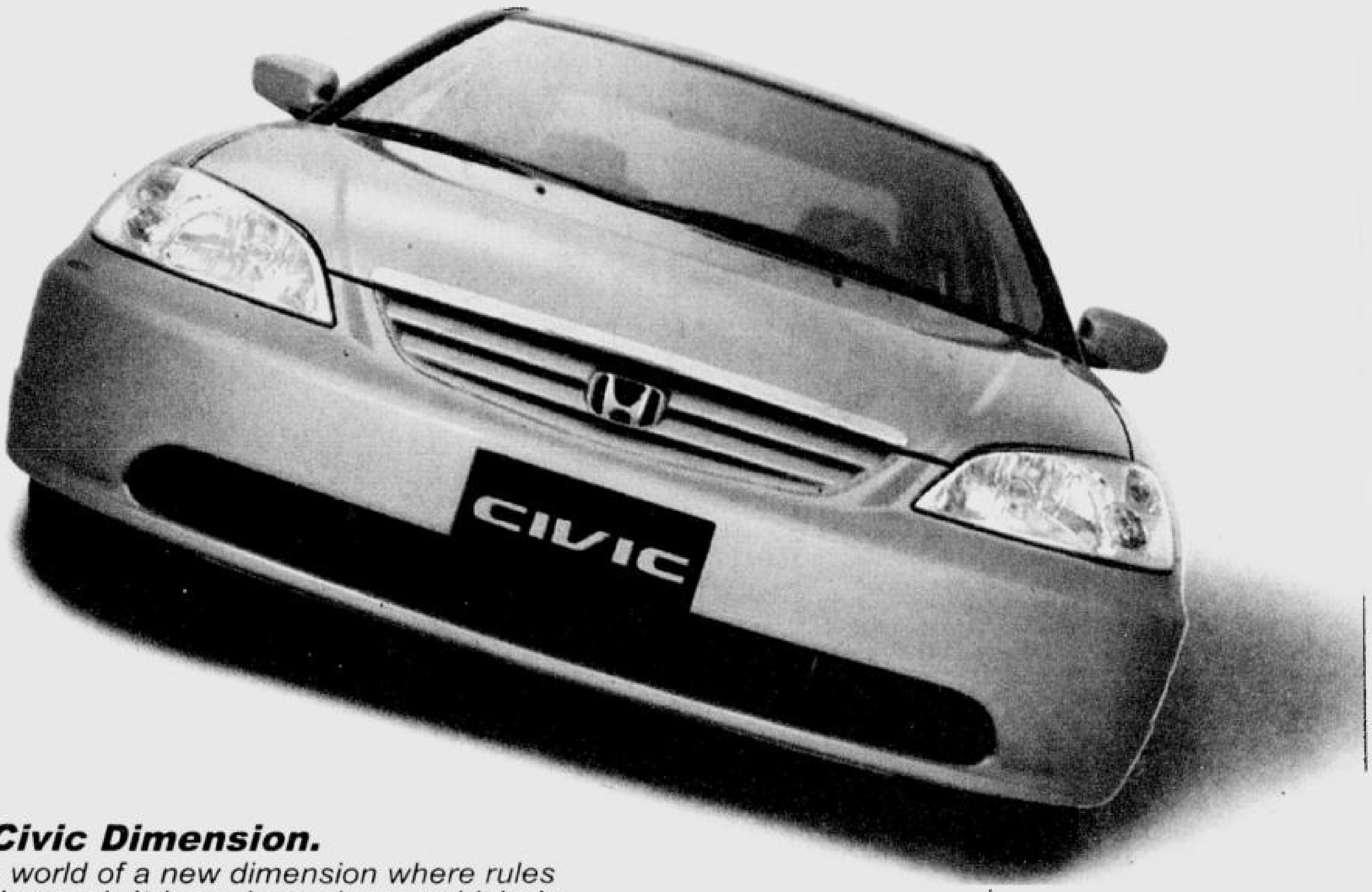

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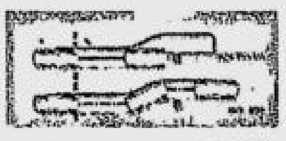
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BUSINESS*Friday*

MARGIE QUIMPO-ESPINO, Business Features Editor

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Models walk on the business ramp

BY MARGIE QUIMPO-ESPINO

WHAT do models do after the call assignments stop coming, or when they fade from the haute couture scene?

The smarter ones have turned themselves into something else before these happen. The not so smart ones simply walk away.

Supermodels Cindy Crawford, Naomi Campbell, Linda Evangelista and Claudia Schiffer are good examples. They used their names at the peak of their careers and opened Fashion Café. For a few years, it became the place to see and be seen in New York.

Here in the Philippines, three ladies and a gentleman, who have made good money by simply having the faces and bodies they have, are doing the same thing.

ILLAC Diaz

PHOTO COURTESY OF WEDDINGS MAGAZINE

They say they are going into business as a fallback since they are not getting any younger and they need to prepare for the future.

Annette Cruz

"You stop at your peak," says events planner Annette Coronel-Cruz.

Cruz started modeling at 16 years old but quit in 1995 when she got pregnant for the second time. She now directs, produces shows, plans events and caters.

"You stop when you are still fresh in people's minds so they don't forget you. You make the radical change—people want you to model but you don't want to anymore. You bank on your name to propel you to business," says Tina Maristela-Ocampo.

Ocampo started modeling at 18, quit at 28, and at 29, married Ricco Ocampo who is also into the fashion business and set up her own shop, The Black Shop.

Lala Flores was the Supermodel of 1990. She has five kids but stopped modeling when she had her fourth child. Since her first love is really doing hair and face, she is now one of the most in demand makeup artists.

Flores says her husband supported her by using their savings to help set up the business.

Becoming a top makeup artist is not cheap. Flores says she probably spent P300,000 to acquire the latest products, new gadgets for the hair and a makeup bag.

She says she spends as much as P10,000 on one buying trip alone.

The three agree that models tend to go into businesses that are related to what they are exposed to as models.

Illac Diaz

For top male model Illac Diaz, two things can happen to a model—get caught in the glamor of the life and end up spending all his or her money to maintaining a lifestyle; or realize early on that the tap will run out someday.

He admits that modeling earns good money. You can average P100,000 a month, while the top ones earn P2 to P3 million a year. But the money does not last long since there is always a new and younger model that will come along and get the big assignments.'

TINA Maristela, Lara Flores and Annette Coronel-Cruz.

PHOTO BY ROGER CARPIO

Diaz's story is slightly different because he was already an entrepreneur when he became a model, although he admits modeling is an easier way to earn a living.

It was his cousin, actor Robin da Roza, who got him into modeling where he learned that he does not need a peso to earn another peso.

It was quite the opposite of the tenet his grandfather taught him at five years old that, "If you have a peso and you sell something, you have another peso. But if you spend it, you don't have anything."

Earning was instilled in Diaz at a young age. He spent a lot of his time with his grandfather, Jaime Diaz, then the sole importer of paper in the country.

"I sat next to him, listening to his stories," Diaz recalls.

His grandfather would ask him to do little things and pay him for it like massaging him, cleaning his car.

"My grandfather shaped me. I saw money being paid to him and I saw his peso make another peso," he says.

And so Diaz got into the selling business in his elementary years. "I sold shirts, yo-yos. I sold "teks" (cards children play with). In grade two I sold marbles. In college I sold jackets."

He says he likes making money. He likes taking risks that pay in the end.

He says modeling or beauty opens a lot of doors and it is up to the models to use those opportunities.

"If you take advantage of the opportunities, the world can be your oyster," he adds.

One motivating factor for Diaz to earn a lot is his passion for travel. His mother first took him abroad when he was 10 years old. They traveled Europe aboard a train. Since then, he takes off at least once a year to visit a new place and try something new.

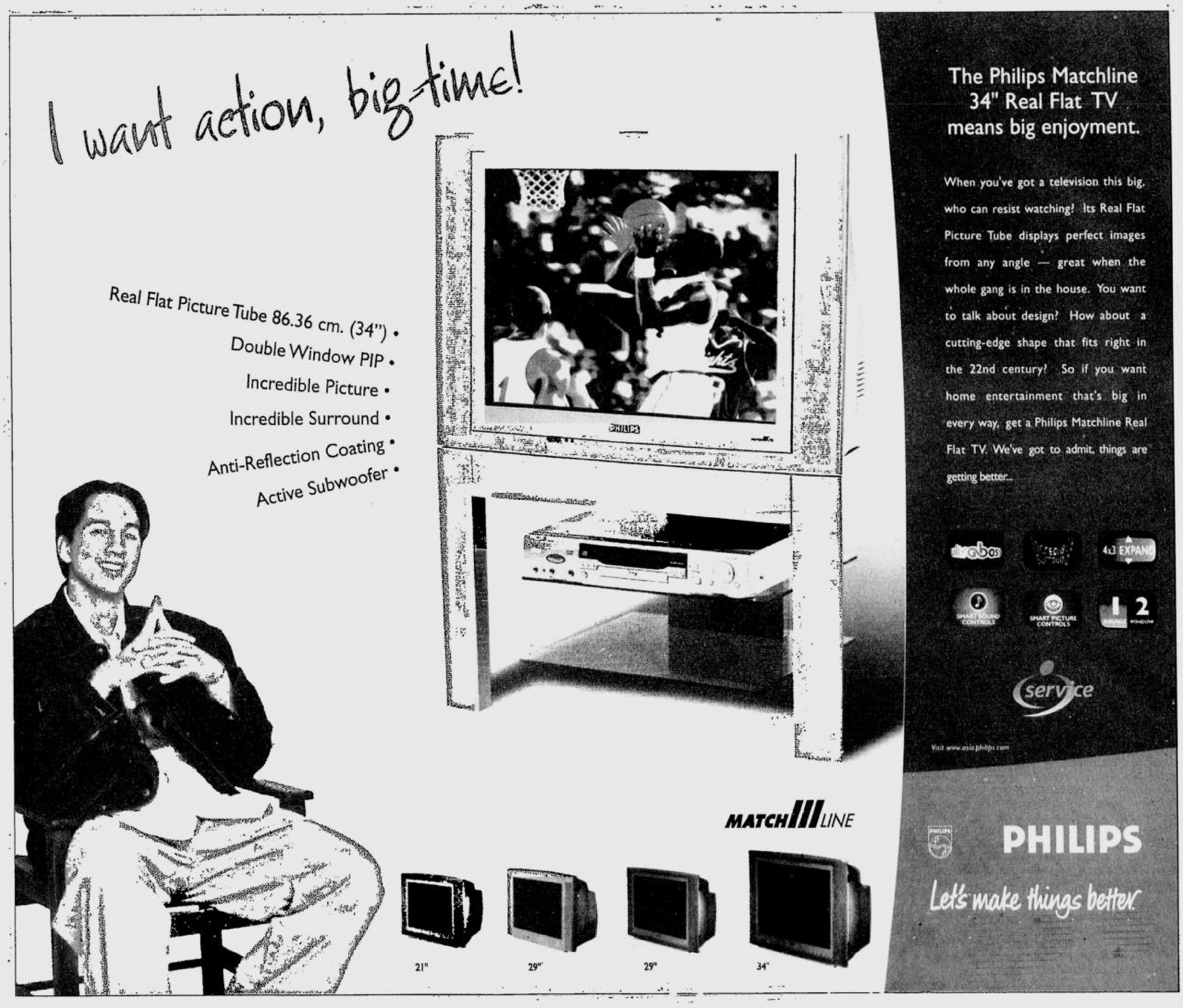
He has been as far as Tanzania and as near as Bangkok.

These days Diaz is finalizing construction of a dorm, his new business. He says he has been lucky with business, having earned his first million (in assets) in his twenties but he adds he also has his share of mishaps.

He lost P700,000 in the photocopying business when the peso value versus the dollar dropped and the imported costs of spare parts shot up. He had to lay off 50 people.

In college, he bought 300 jackets that did not sell.

To Diaz, his ultimate passion is business and he intends to be in it for a long time. But in the meantime, his earnings from modeling are enough to cover his entertainment costs.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Firm says key to sell more is to focus on service and distribution

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

MARKETING STRATEGY

SHARP claims it has the biggest share for color televisions and *karaoke* in the market. And they claim that their market continues to grow despite economic difficulties.

Koji Domoto, division general manager for domestic sales of appliance maker Sharp (Phils.) Corp., attributes the success of Sharp in the market to the affordable price, good features of its appliances and wide distribution network.

Sharp hopes to duplicate its feat in the refrigerator and air-conditioner markets where the Japanese firm is a relative newcomer.

"It is very difficult to differentiate products in the market so we have to differentiate our products with the competition by focusing on our service and the wide dealer network across the country," Domoto says.

Sharp introduced its 100-percent frost-free refrigerators a few years ago. The refrigerators have clear Plexiglas trays, thin walls and large interior space favored by the upper middle-income markets.

One innovation is the dual swing-door refrigerator that can be opened from either the left or right side. Sharp also puts the refrigerator on top and the freezer on the bottom as studies show that people use the refrigerator more than the freezer.

"We hope to get a 10-percent share in the total refrigerator market by the end of the year," he says.

Sharp marketing manager Roberto Littaua says Sharp is also exerting efforts to ensure the display and availability of the refrigerators in all the dealers' branches. Merchandising support with point-of-purchase materials and adequate product knowledge of salespersons in the stores are also ensured.

"All these activities are complemented with an extensive print advertising campaign that can now be seen in the newspapers," Littaua adds.

Customers are also treated to special promotional items like a T-shirt, lamps and bags for every purchase of a Sharp product.

Sharp is also a new player in the market for air conditioners. Sharp first penetrated the market by selling low-priced items, but it plans to follow through by focusing on after-sales service and warranties.

A unique feature of Sharp air conditioners is the twin fan motor system that eliminates operation noise. Separate motors drive the blower fan and exhaust fans, thus, lowering energy consumption.

Its split-type room aircon is gaining popularity for its convenience, space-saving and silent operation feature. Sharp is introducing the 1 and 1.5 hp models of these aircons.

"Aside from these features, Sharp air conditioners come with free quarterly maintenance checkup and cleaning service for the first year and extended warranty on the compressor up to five years," Littaua says.

He says print advertisements of the Sharp air conditioners focus on the appearance.

"Showing the consumer benefits or lifestyle improvement in a straightforward manner has been a trait of Sharp's advertisements," Littaua adds.

Domoto says moves to position the refrigerators and air conditioners is part of Sharp's thrust to at least retain its market share despite the entry of more competition and products from overseas.

"This is one industry where we have to introduce new styles and products to keep customers," Domoto says.

Sharp has been in the country for more than 10 years and sells a whole range of products that include karaoke, washing machines, components, mini-disc players, flat screen TVs and digital video disc players.

Domoto estimates that the industry will not grow significantly this year as the consumers are still reeling from the economic and political upheavals.

"Unlike food that is indispensable, electronics is a luxury business. We cannot expect double-digit growth this year and we may even see prices going down by about 5 percent," he says.

SHARP eyes 10 percent share in refrigerators

Deadline to compromise?

By Wilfredo U. Villanueva
SGV & Co.

TAX-FILES

LAST year, the commissioner of Internal Revenue issued Revenue Memorandum Orders (RMOs) Nos. 42-2000 and 53-2000, which provided specific details on the implementation of compromise settlements of pending tax assessments.

The RMOs generally complemented Revenue Regulations (RR) No. 6-2000, dated Sept. 5, 2000, which implemented Sec. 204 of the National Internal Revenue Code, as amended (NIRC).

This section expressly allows the CIR to compromise internal revenue taxes under certain conditions. Interestingly enough, however, the RMOs put the deadline for the filing of compromise settlements for deficiency taxes on Dec. 31, 2000.

Before we panic at the thought of having passed on this chance to compromise pending tax cases, let us first examine the qualifications for compromise settlement set out by the rules and regulations.

Compromise

Under Sec. 204 of the NIRC, the CIR can compromise any internal revenue tax under the following general conditions. These are a reasonable doubt as to the validity of the claim against the taxpayer exists; or the financial position of the taxpayer demonstrates a clear inability to pay the assessed tax.

The section also provides for a minimum rate or amount of compromise, as follows: (a) a minimum rate of 40 percent of the basic tax assessed (without surcharge, interest, or other penalties) for tax assessments of doubtful validity; and (b) 10 percent of the basic tax assessed for tax assessments whereby the taxpayers clearly show financial incapacity of paying the tax.

Let us examine then the provisions of RMO No. 42-2000 to see the precise details and manner by which the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) chose to implement Sec. 204 of the NIRC.

Clearly, the most important provisions of the RMO are those that pertain to the (a) types of assessments which may be compromised; (b) definition of terms which would qualify a taxpayer to compromise its existing tax liabilities; and (c) applicable rates at which said cases may be compromised.

For the types of assessments that may be compromised, Sec. 204 of the NIRC provides, without qualification, that the payment of any internal revenue tax may be compromised so long as either a doubtful validity (of the assessment) or financial incapacity (of the taxpayer) is sufficiently proven.

On the other hand, RMO No. 42-2000 specifies certain cases that cannot be compromised under the provisions of said RMO.

These assessment cases are: (1) withholding tax cases; (2) criminal tax fraud cases; (3) criminal violations already filed in court; (4) cases involving assessments issued after June 30, 2000; and (5) delinquent (assessment) accounts with duly approved schedules of installment payments.

Reasonable doubt

Let us proceed to the terms used under Sec. 204 of the NIRC. The first qualifying requirement for compromise settlement under Sec. 204, is that of a "reasonable doubt as to the validity of the assessment."

RMO 42-2000 says there is doubt when: (1) the delinquent account or disputed assessment resulted from a jeopardy assessment (an assessment without the benefit of a complete or partial audit); the assessment is arbitrary in nature, based on presumptions; (3) the taxpayer failed to file an administrative protest on account of alleged failure to receive the assessment; 4) the taxpayer failed to file a request for reinvestigation/reconsideration within thirty (30) days from receipt of the Formal Assessment Notice (FAN); (5) the taxpayer failed to elevate the adverse decision of the CIR to the Court of Tax Appeals (CTA) within thirty (30) days from receipt of said adverse decision, and (6) assessments issued on or after Jan. 1, 1998, where the demand notice allegedly failed to comply with the formalities prescribed under Sec. 228 of the NIRC, as amended.

Financial incapacity

On the other hand, the RMO says there is "financial incapacity" when: (1) the audited balance sheet for the taxable year preceding the year when the compromise offer is made shows either a capital deficit or reflects a negative

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Firms find profits beyond balance sheets

By Michelle V. Remo

UNDER the old business model, companies were taught to invest heavily in land and equipment and machinery in the hope of generating substantial revenues.

In this age of global competition and rapid technological advancements, this rule no longer holds true. Customers and clients now look beyond a company's four walls, putting more value on the people and products within.

"Bottom line these days is not to be fixated with assets," says Cesar Purisima, chair of SGV and Co. Inc., during the recently concluded 32nd National Marketing Conference of the Philippine Marketing Association.

He explains that the "creation of value" by any business organization does not only lie on the things that appear in the balance sheet, but also on "investing in intangibles."

Purisima identifies intangible investments as those that are not included in the list of a company's assets or liabilities, but can actually make or break a business.

He puts these intangible assets into three groups, namely, customer, employees and organization.

Including the customer in a company's assets is a common sense for every company's task is to create and maintain customer, says Purisima.

Since customers are the ones who bring in the cash, they should be given particular attention, thus the line "The customer is always right."

The employees, meanwhile, are the ones who do the legwork. They should also be provided with all the assistance they need, for their success also contributes to the company's profitability.

The last category, which is organization, includes values, such as leadership, integrity and culture. These play a vital role in the company's image building, a key to promoting customer relations.

He cites Singapore Airlines in emphasizing the importance of culture value.

He says that all airlines basically have the same planes purchased from manufacturers, but what makes it "preferable" to travel via the said airline is its culture that pleases and gives comfort to travelers.

Challenged by the marketing belief, "You cannot manage what you don't measure," Purisima introduces the "Value Dynamics Model" in measuring all of a company's assets and liabilities, including the intangibles.

This model, he explains, will include "all potential sources of all benefits that have the capabilities to contribute to a company's value."

Although he admits that this model has not yet been fully developed to answer specific questions on how to measure intangibles and its relation to the business organization's value creation, the model is a first step.

It may be unlikely for an accounting guru like Purisima to deviate from the usual practice of determining a company's assets and liabilities through what appears in the balance sheet.

But Purisima believes, that what you can count sometimes doesn't matter at the end of the day.

He believes many companies are already investing in intangibles as shown by efforts in advertising, human resource development and public relations. The next stage is to involve these intangibles in their decision making and consider it good investments.

Deadline to compromise?

(From page C2)

networth of at least 5 percent; (2) the taxpayer is declared by a competent court to be bankrupt or insolvent; (3) the taxpayer has already been dissolved; or (4) the taxpayer is a compensation income earner without any other source of income, and the family gross annual income does not exceed P25,000. These definitions basically repeat the definitions provided under RR No. 6-2000. Other than these, RR No. 6-2000 specifically requires the taxpayer who claims financial incapacity to submit a written waiver of the secrecy of its bank deposits to allow the BIR to effect a full examination of said accounts.

As regards applicable rates of compromise, RMO 42-2000 goes further than Sec. 204 of the NIRC and RR No. 6-2000.

It provides that assessments involving taxable year 1994 and prior years should be compromised at 10 percent for financial incapacity and 20 percent in case the assessment is of doubtful validity.

Assessments, on the other hand, for taxable years 1995 to 1997 should be compromised at 10 percent for financial incapacity and 40 percent for reasonable doubt or doubtful validity of the assessment.

For 1998 and 1999, assessments should be compromised at 20 percent for financial incapacity and 50 percent for reasonable doubt or doubtful validity of the assessment.

In addition, RR No. 6-2000 provides a general rule on the tax rate of compromise for assessments or delinquent accounts of taxpayers registered under the Large Taxpayers Service (LTS) and the Excise Tax Service (ETS), which is pegged at 50 percent of the basic tax assessed.

Given these types of taxes that can be compromised, it is reasonable to state that the RMO No. 42-2000 and RR No. 6-2000 restrict the otherwise general qualification of any internal revenue tax which may be compromised as provided under Section 204 of the NIRC.

BIR policy

This is because of the BIR's policy on the handling of assessments that shows a greater or more severe liability and/or actual guilt on the part of the taxpayer. Without going into a discourse on BIR policy, it should be of interesting note for both the taxpayers and the BIR that the restricted cases may not appear absolute in the sense that other factual conditions may influence the terms of possible compromise settlement.

RMO No. 42-2000, on the other hand, clearly provides a different set of rates at which different tax assessments may be compromised. RR No. 6-2000 follows the basic rates stated in Sec. 204 of the NIRC.

RMO No. 42-2000 actually lowers the compromise tax rates in some cases (20 percent for doubtful validity cases involving taxable year 1994 and previous years), and raises the rates in others (20 percent for financial incapacity cases and 50 percent for doubtful validity cases involving taxable year 1998 and 1999).

Admittedly, for the higher tax rates, Sec. 204 of the NIRC mentions the 10 percent and 40 percent for financial incapacity and doubtful validity as minimum rates.

On the other hand, rates that are lower than minimum are not necessarily denied outright, as Sec. 204 of the NIRC provides that offers for compromise which are lower than the prescribed minimum rates will be subject to review by an evaluation board.

In both cases, the CIR is exercising its power to interpret the provisions of the NIRC within the scope of said provisions.

This is different from the situation wherein the types of tax cases are limited under RMO No. 42-2000 and RR No. 6-2000, as opposed to the general and all accepting statement in Section 204 of the NIRC.

Compromise

Given these provisions in RMO No. 42-2000, and the fact that taxpayers could only compromise their tax liabilities under said RMO on or before Dec. 31, 2000, did the taxpayers with existing qualified tax liabilities miss out on any chance to finally compromise these cases?

In the greater scheme of things, the taxpayers may have missed out on the chance to address at an earlier time whatever qualified tax liabilities they have. If the BIR were to strictly apply the conditions of lower compromise tax rates as pertaining exclusively under RMO No. 42-2000, then, yes, you can say that taxpayers with 1994 and prior years' cases that are of doubtful validity did miss out on the chance to compromise at 20 percent, instead of the minimum 40 percent stated in Sec. 204 of the NIRC.

These taxpayers likewise missed out on the chance to compromise cases at a time when the compromise settlement transactions appeared to have been the main focus of the BIR (hence the issuance of RMO No. 42-2000).

They also missed out on the chance to help the government that is (still) in the throes of an incredibly expanding budget deficit.

But all is not lost. Taxpayers still have the chance to compromise their existing qualified tax liabilities under RR No. 6-2000.

While RR No. 6-2000 does not provide for lower compromise rates (in fact it provides for higher compromise rates in some cases, Sec. 204 of the NIRC does allow the taxpayer to offer a compromise settlement of qualified tax liabilities at rates even lower than the prescribed minimum.

On the part of the taxpayer, therefore, there is still a good chance to compromise qualified tax liabilities.

On the part of the BIR, these applications for compromise that may be filed by taxpayers should be considered in the light of the current economic situation. While the BIR may have the right to impose the provisions of RMO No. 42-2000 strictly, the need to collect funds for government coffers continues to be urgent and of the utmost importance.

It is also usually the case that the compromise offers are made by taxpayers who are truly financially incapable of paying the said tax liabilities, or actually have assessment cases which are of doubtful validity.

While the BIR should be circumspect in the examination of the applications for compromise, it must likewise be guided by the factual and legal bases of the assessments, as well as the factual conditions and circumstances surrounding the applicant/taxpayer.

This should make Sec. 204 of the NIRC more attractive to taxpayers, who may want to make an honest contribution to the government in its effort to increase and accelerate the collection of taxes, while the government gets its much needed shot in the arm to bolster its coffers.

It is hoped that this discussion on the possibility of compromise will aid in bringing more taxpayers and the BIR together to work out mutually acceptable solutions to existing qualified tax liabilities.

(The author is a tax director in SGV and Co. and co-heads the Transfer Pricing Group.)

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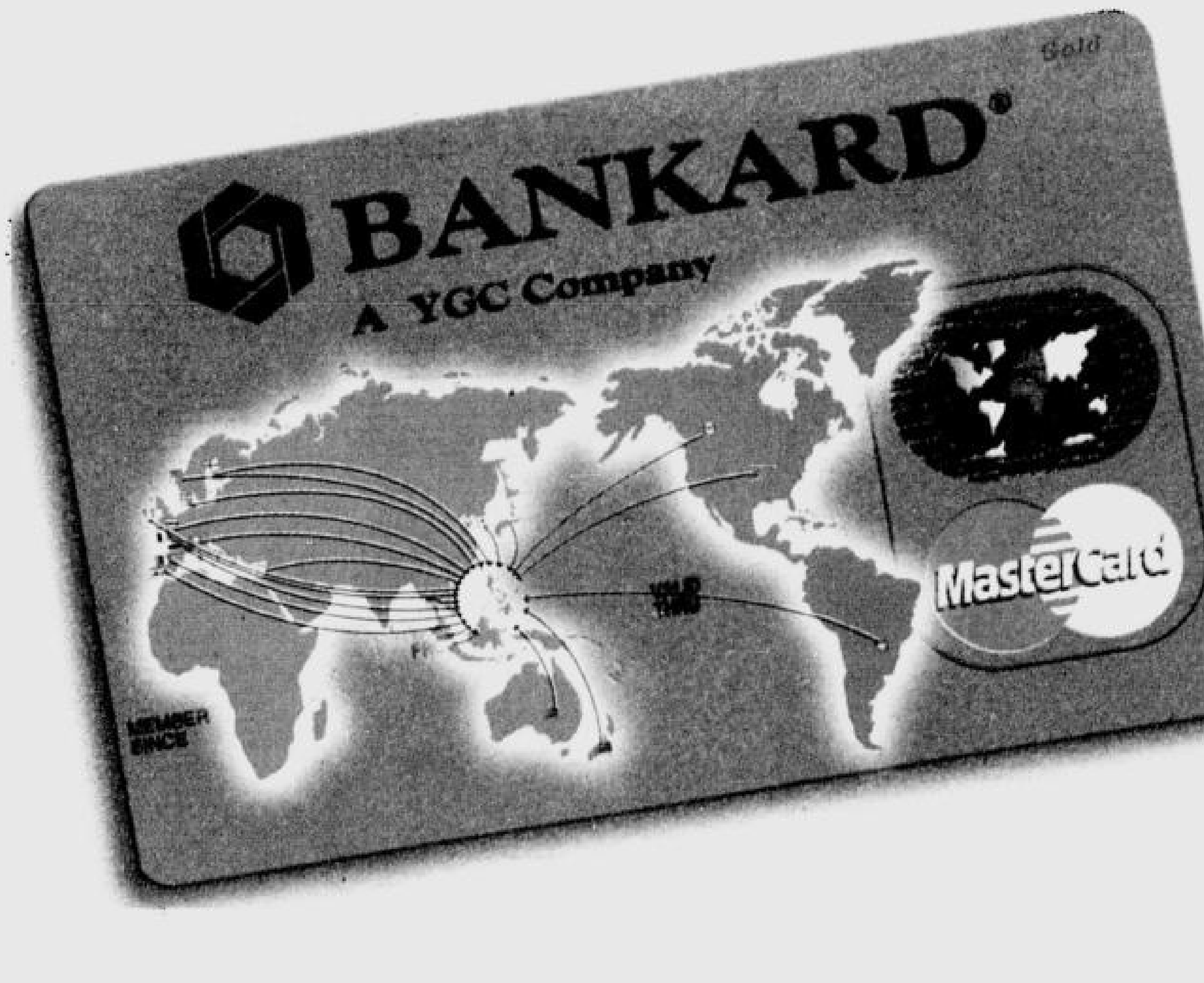

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Move over GSM, here comes 3G

By Abigail L. Ho

NAZARENO

AS data and voice traffic requirements grow with the times, the second-generation networks, like the GSM (global system for mobile communications), will eventually make way for the higher-speed, larger-capacity third generation—3G—networks.

The shift, though, will be "evolutionary, not revolutionary," according to Smart Communications Inc. president and chief executive officer Napoleon Nazareno.

For a telecommunications company to stay globally competitive, shifting to 3G technology is essential.

Asian mobile phone operators, however, have made little or no move at all to build 3G networks because of their high cost, and Asian governments have also avoided costly auctions of 3G licenses.

On the part of Smart, Nazareno says, "we are in no rush. The price tag currently associated with 3G and the continued delay of its commercial rollout by even the most aggressive carriers caution us to be patient."

He added that their main focus now, since they are taking their time in shifting to 3G technology, is "discovering new applications for the current 2G technology—applications that have mass-market appeal and are able to boost operator revenues."

Examples of 3G-like technology are the Smart Zed which serves as a mobile portal that allows subscribers to access a range of data services, both local and global, and the Smart Money, an electronic wallet and the world's first and only cash card tied to a cellular phone.

Both services employ the basic SMS (short messaging service) or the popular text messaging service available to all GSM subscribers.

Proving that a service does not have to be 3G to earn high regard in the international telecommunications scene, the Smart Money service won for Smart the "Most Innovative GSM Award" at the 3rd GSM Congress held in Cannes, France.

Since Smart launched its GSM service in April 1999, it has introduced around 100 different wireless services ranging from news and information, mobile banking, vehicle locator, logo, and ring tones. This year, subscribers can look forward to another 100 new services.

But even with its success in 2G SMS technology, which now generates a significant share of its revenues, Smart is already gradually developing its network in ways that will make the inevitable shift to 3G easier to accomplish.

Part of this is deploying Ultrasites—a new generation of GSM base station equipment that substantially increases the capacity of Smart's 2G mobile phone network.

Smart has also recently upgraded its GSM network capacity by 40 percent in the first four months of 2001 to over 5 million subscribers in anticipation of further subscriber growth. This is part of Smart's P21-billion network expansion program.

Text messaging system capacity was also boosted by 63 percent to 140 million messages a day on an in-out basis, "to maintain a buffer between our current capacity and our growing subscriber base," says Smart network services division head Rolando Peña.

Smart Communications Inc. is the cellular arm of telecommunications giant Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co.

Ducks do lay golden eggs

By Romulo Ponte
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

ANGELINE Reyes, her eldest daughter Maricris, personally cleans and collects eggs from ducks.

VICTORIA, Laguna—Danilo and Angeline Reyes started raising 200 duck hens worth about P6,000 in 1985 using a borrowed piece of land, with bamboo and nipa cages.

Today, the couple raises more than 10,000 ducks worth about P1 million. They now own their land and the 12 large cages are made of concrete.

Danny and Geline now number among the thriving millionaires in the local duck industry that began in 1968. Victoria, with a population of 27,209, has 50 registered big-time duck raisers.

Geline tells the INQUIRER that they did not expect they would find their fortunes in this rural, coastal municipality.

Geline says Danny's original plan was to seek brighter opportunities abroad. But while waiting for approval for an overseas job, they visited his wife's relatives and they were attracted to the idea of going into the duck raising business.

Nueva Ecija to Victoria

They went into it through a partnership with her sister Edna Go of Quezon City and on Feb. 28,1985, they made the move from Nueva Ecija to Victoria to start their business.

They started with 200 duck-heads and the eggs that were made into balut were quickly sold out. This prompted the couple to increase the ducks to 500 on the second month and to 1,000 by the third month.

"There's plenty of money in the industry," Reyes says "After just three months, I was very happy because we were able to buy a brand new passenger jeepney worth P182,000 out of the industry's income."

In two years, the couple increased their ducks to 2,500 and gradually added more until it reached up to more than 10,000. By this time, they became sole owners of the business after their partner Edna decided to quit from duck raising.

A devout Catholic and regular churchgoer, Geline believes that God has a hand in making their business a success.

At the peak of their operations when they had 10,000 duck heads, they were earning an average of P15,000 a day, or P450,000 a month.

Unfortunately, profits dove to only P3,000 a day since 1999 because of the adverse effects of the Asian currency crisis.

Reyes explains that the steep depreciation of the peso jacked up prices of feed for the ducks from P350 to P600 per sack, thus, bloating their operating expenses. He stresses that they can not scrimp on the feed budget to ensure the quality of the duck eggs.

"Never cheat ducks in terms of feeds and proper care because it would lead to low egg productions, thus income losses," he says.

Dator family

Elderly couple Napoleon Dator, Sr., 74 and wife Lourdes "Oding," 68, who also has a P1-million operation, have been in the business for 41 years now.

They give similar advice to those who want to engage in the business—personally supervise the ducks.

"Never cheat and be unfaithful to the ducks and they will in turn reward you with more eggs and more money," he says.

Another couple that made money by raising ducks is Pablo Matinag Fernandez, Sr., 64, and wife Dominga Ligaya, 60, a school principal. They have been into duck-raising since 1982.

Their 1,500 duck heads helped sustain their family of three, one of which has been a priest for about two years.

Danny Reyes has important tips for those who may want to invest in duck-raising. "Never begin investing on duck-layers in February, March, April and May because summer season means low egg production and low market opportunities," he says.

He explains that the market is low during these months because students in Manila who are the main consumers of balut are on vacation.

Best months

The best months to start the layers inside the cages, Reyes says, would be June, July, August. The cooler months mean more eggs, higher prices and higher demand.

"Never overcrowd your cages with ducks because this will hamper their egg laying," he says.

Reyes suggests that for 1,000 duck-hens, the cage should be 32 meters wide by 80 meters long and 6 meters high when using galvanized roofing. This provides adequate ventilation and enough room for the ducks to move around.

Like all serious duck raisers, Geline says feeding is important to make sure that the ducks lay enough eggs. They should be fed on time and at least three times a day. She also recommends personal supervision.

"Never rely on your workers alone. You supervise your business personally," she says.

Her personal supervision pays off. The Reyes couple now owns several tracts of land and rice fields both in Victoria and in Nueva Ecija.

They also own six vehicles including trucks and a brand-new Isuzu pick-up, and they have recently built a million or so worth of residential building. "All these are coming from our income in raising ducks," Reyes adds.

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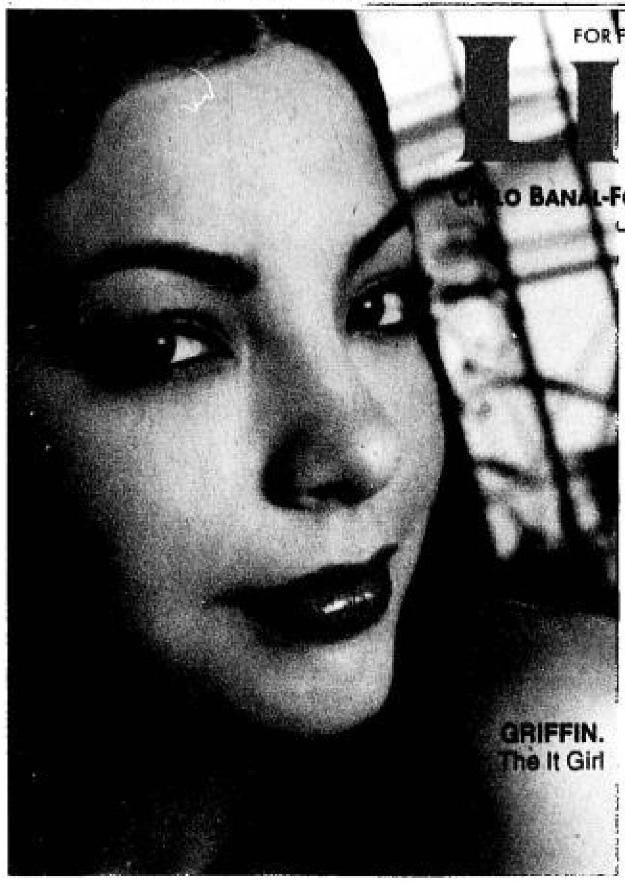
LIFESTYLE Trend Spotting
C[illegible]LO BANAL-FORMOSO, Editor ◻ MARGE C. ENRIQUEZ, Subsection Editor


GRIFFIN.
The It Girl

Amanda Griffin by demand

The Filipino-British Channel [V] VJ and Herbench image model is a stunner uncomfortable with the superficialities of show biz and modeling *(Story on page D8)*

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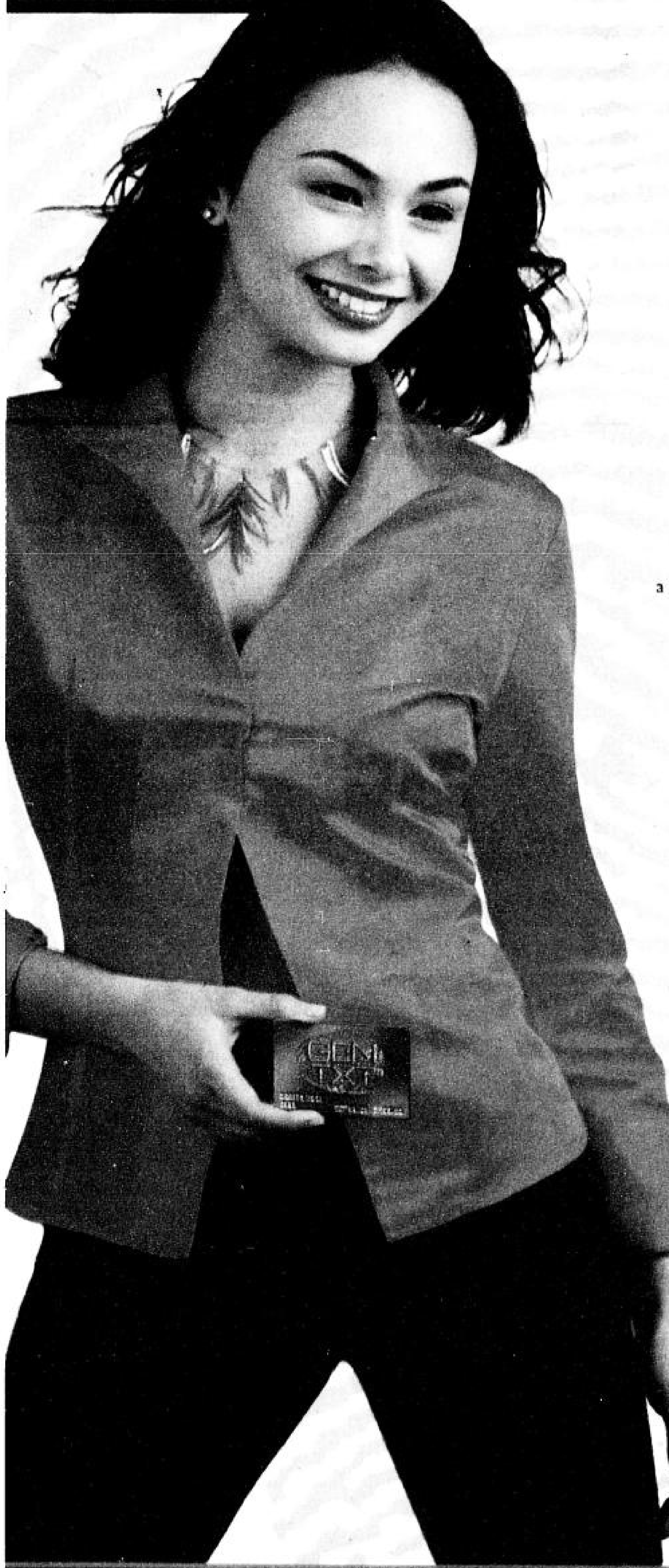

GENTXT

June Gig Guide

"Oye!" Sabor Latino at The Abbey — 1
Catch the Latin fever with top rate Latin music and dance with Sabor Latino band! First 50 GENTXTers get VIP passes to the event.
>> The Abbey, Cebu - 7:30 PM**

Crossover Presents: Regine — 7
Asia's Songbird serenades lucky GENTXTers in a night of stirring ballads. First 5 GENTXTers to go to Harrison Communications starting June 6 get a pair of tickets.
>>Captain's Bar, Mandarin Oriental - 8:00 PM*

"The Replicant", Advanced Screening — 11
(in cooperation with DWTM)
Jean Claude Van Damme turns evil in this action-packed thriller about a crazed serial killer. First 50 GENTXTers to go to Harrison Communications starting June 8 get a pair of free movie invites.
>> SM Megamall Cinema 11 - 7:30 PM*

Ralph Launch — 16&17
Ralph Lauren launches its newest fragrance for women, Ralph, with a double treat for GENTXTers: a surprise gift for the first 1,000 GENTXTers and movie invites for the first 40 GENTXTers at the event to download the special ringtone and the Ralph logo on the first day.
>> North Court, Powerplant Mall, Rockwell 10:00 AM - 9:00 PM

"Tomb Raider", Advanced Screening — 20
(in cooperation with Channel E!)
Angelina Jolie slinks into character as video game heroine Lara Croft. First 15 GENTXTers to go to Harrison Communications starting June 19 get a pair of free invites.
>>Louie's THX Cinema- 7:30 PM*

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New Partners

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GENTXTers get 10% off on membership, 20% off on massage rates and a waived P150 fee for gym use if they are hotel guests.

Eagles' Bar, Marco Polo, Davao
25% off on food and drinks.

Maricaban Bay, Palawan
50% discount on all published room rates, 5% discount on package rates and 20% discount on hobbiecat, kayaking, wind surfing and banana boat.

Ralph Lauren
A free travel-sized fragrance with any purchase of any Ralph Lauren fragrance (excluding Ralph).

*HARRISON COMMUNICATIONS is at the 4/F First Life Center Bldg., 174 Salcedo St., Legaspi Village, Makati City. Look for GENTXTer Cecille, flash your GENTXT card, and get your free tickets.
**Applications will be accepted at the registration area.

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With Avon's antiaging cream, you can lie about your age

AS long as you have a life well spent, who cares about aging? That is absolutely true, of course, but who doesn't want to keep it at bay and live more fully—and looking younger than your age?

That is essentially what Avon's newest antiaging arsenal, Anew Retroactive, is all about.

Retroactive boasts of a breakthrough technology developed by Avon—the Rejuvi-Cell technology—whose stunningly revolutionary task is to slow down or reverse aging by keeping the skin cells constantly "communicating" with each other.

AVON'S group marketing manager Irene Advincula talks about their latest breakthrough in skin care, Anew Retroactive.

Avon's dedicated cellular scientists and geneticists working on skin care research has employed the "gene array technology" to understand the changes in cellular communication that occur in skin cells during aging. "What they found out," says Avon's group marketing manager Irene Advincula, cutting through the techie thicket, "is that when the cells 'talk' less to each other, they become lethargic, less active, resulting in such age-related skin changes as dryness, roughness, puffiness, wrinkles. This is when the skin starts to age and look older."

In effect, Anew's Retroactive activates cell signaling while the older cells are "trained" to act like younger cells. In other words, your skin will think it's young again.

It's not like Avon is the first to wage the campaign against aging skin—the fight has been going on for ages—but it's probably the first to attack it deeper, right where the aging process begins: the skin cells. And what's more, says Advincula, Retroactive works for both mature women and younger girls at least 18 years old. It reverses the aging process for the former and retards it for the latter.

And it works for women of all colors—white, black, brown, yellow, mixed and in-betweens. "The life cycle of the skin is the same whatever the color," says Advincula. "It may age faster in others, depending on the climate and humidity, but the process of aging is the same."

Does it work as well for men? "Certainly," says Advincula. "And they probably need it more than women." After all, they are the ones who brutalize their skin with too much drinking and smoking and too much sun and outdoor activity. Younger men these days, observes Advincula, are more conscious about their looks. "They're even vainer than women," she gasps, by which she means that they didn't use to care whether they had bad skin or that a wrinkle was ruining the smoothness of their brow.

Five years ago, Avon gave women the Anew Perfecting Complex, which contains the revolutionary alpha hydroxy acids, or AHA, now the ingredient of a host of skincare products from expensive brands to run-of-the-mill concoctions. Since 1997, it has been expanding the Anew line with the All-In-One Perfecting Complex for Face, the All-In-One Intensive Complex, the Luminosity Brightening Complex, and the Force Extra Triple Lifting Night Cream. These immediately became a global marketing success, putting Avon in the forefront of skin care research, shoulder to shoulder with other prestigious brands.

Retroactive is a new-generation product which complements other products in the Anew line. "That means you can use Retroactive by itself or in combination with other products in the line," says Advincula. Altogether they make up a thorough regimen of cleansing, repairing, whitening, lifting and tightening and age reversing.

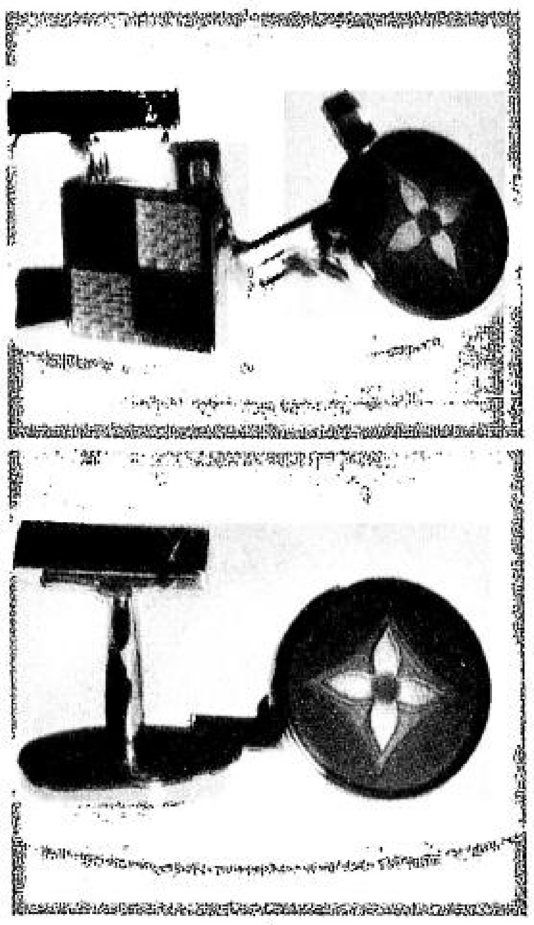
Now every woman from 18-50, of any skin type, says Advincula, can use Retroactive. A younger woman with minimal signs of aging can combine it with Perfecting Complex and the Luminosity Brightening Complex. One with moderate signs of aging (lines and wrinkles are becoming more marked) can use Retroactive with Perfecting Complex and/or the Triple Lifting Night Cream. The more mature woman with advanced signs of aging can layer on Retroactive plus the Night Cream.

The results? In as little as one or two weeks, the user can already see and feel dramatic changes such as smoothening of the wrinkles and tightening of the skin. "It's like five years peeled away from your face. Which is why Anew is called the skincare line that subtracts from your face.

"The result is naturally younger-looking skin, almost like a face-lift, so much so that your friends will be saying, 'There's something different, something new about you,' but can't quite point out what it is," Advincula says.

"You can now lie about your age and keep them guessing."

She's in BAYO.



MONOGRAM Flower versions

French elegance for dandy dad

THIS Father's Day, give your dad a special token of your love and affection with stylish accessories from Louis Vuitton. The French fashion house known the world over for fine leather craft, Louis Vuitton's elegant gift suggestions will let your dad know how truly important he is in your life.

Urbanite dads who love the look of casual elegance appreciate a gift of Louis Vuitton cufflinks. Must-have classics, the cufflinks play with shapes and colors, with round ones looking stylish with a Monogram Flower while square ones looking dashing with the Damier motif.

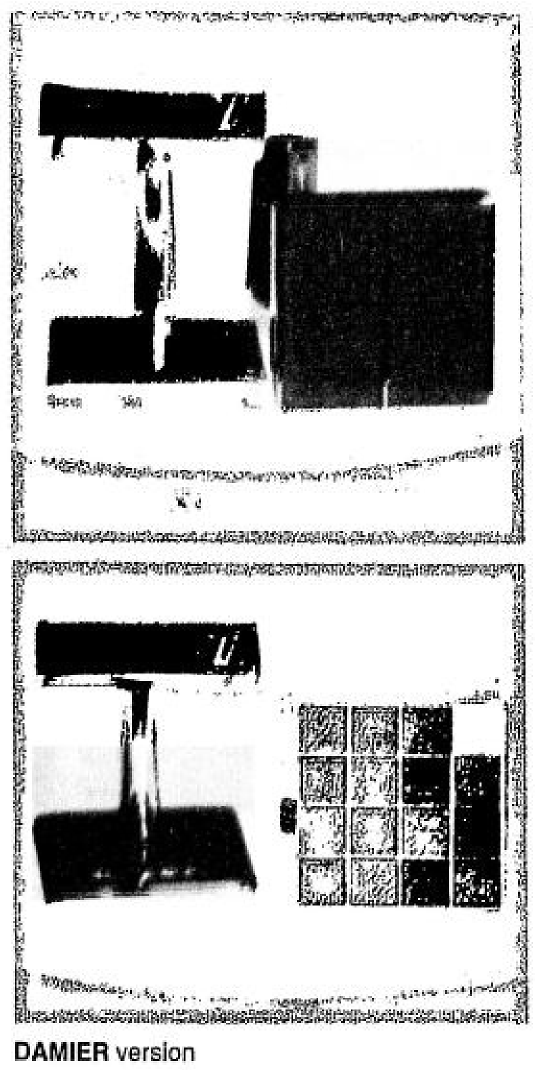
The different layers of lacquer give the cufflinks various shades of intensity and different tones, a play on depth that actually makes the colors vibrate. It is done in precious materials of solid silver and vermeil, and comes in a Taiga leather case.

These elegant cufflinks come in three versions. The Monogram Flower versions are available in four classic colors: silver/mahogany, gold/spruce, silver/gray and gold/blue. The Damier version comes in four innovative colors: silver/blue, gold/red, silver/gray and gold/camel. Lastly, the Damier 16 cufflinks come in four tone-on-tone colors: silver/blue, silver/parma, vermeil/brown and vermeil/khaki. All pairs have a thin, rectangular pivoting link that slide easily through the buttonholes, providing slick chic for the stylish dad.

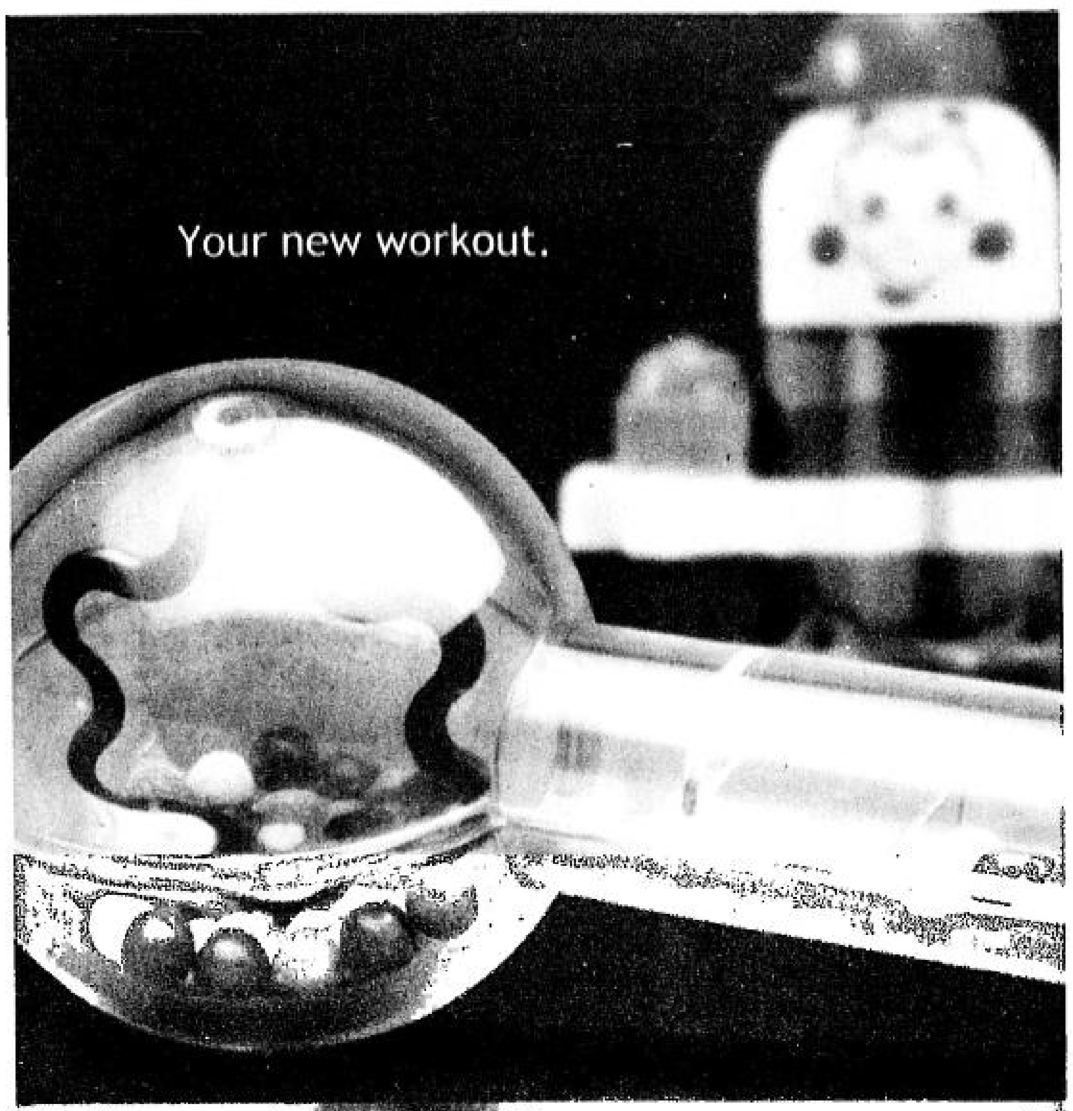
Meanwhile, practical dads will love the simple sophistication of Luke. A simple, light modern and innovative computer case, Luke is not the traditional computer bag. Dads will appreciate the functional interior of Luke with two leather straps that hold the laptop firmly in place and keeps it safe during travel. The handle is trimmed with a piece of elastic material, a blend of savoir-faire and technology.

Sophistication is all around Luke, with the glazed leather embossed with the damier motif discreetly playing on reflections of light. Dads have a choice of three elegant colors: resin, navy and neon coral.

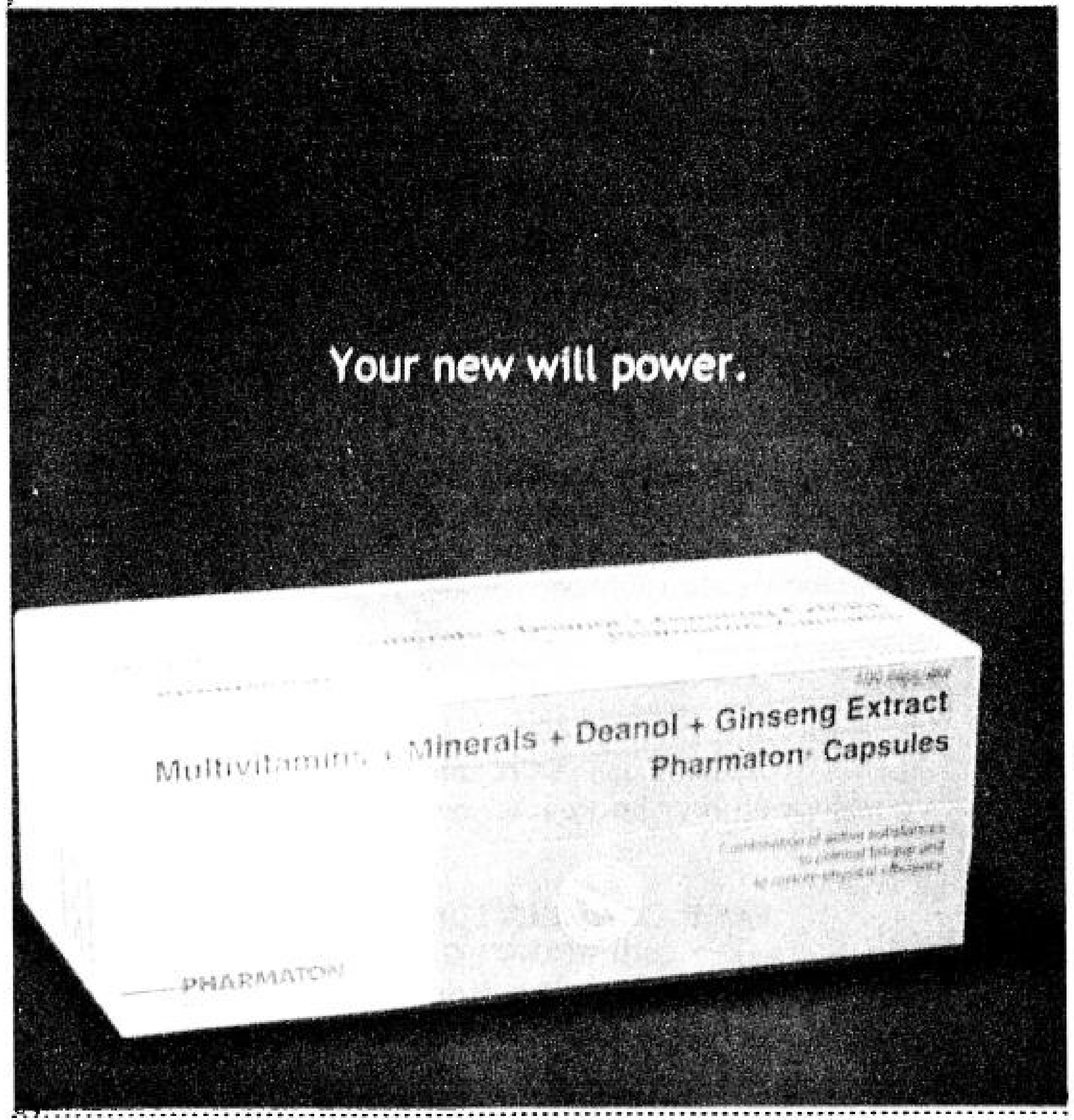
These stylishly sophisticated accessories will surely make your dad the most elegant father ever. ILouis Vuitton is located at G/F 6750 Ayala Avenue, Makati City. Visit the website at www.vuitton.com.



DAMIER version



Your new trainer.



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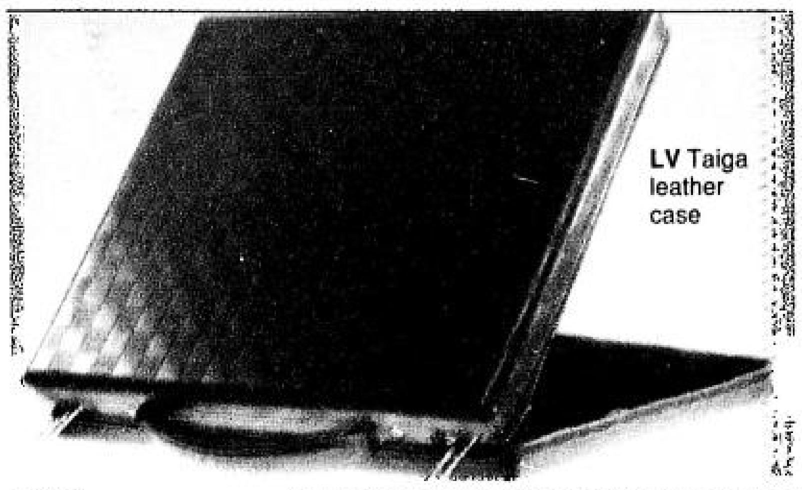
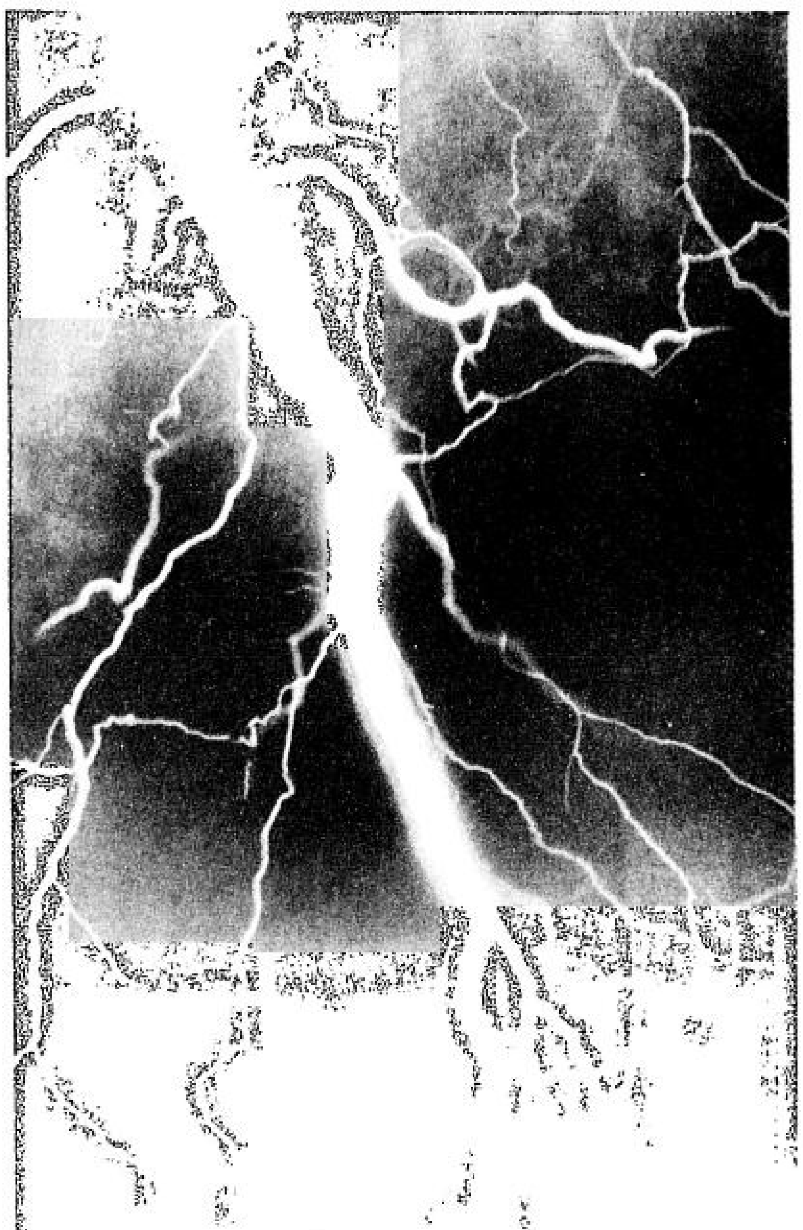


LV Taiga leather case



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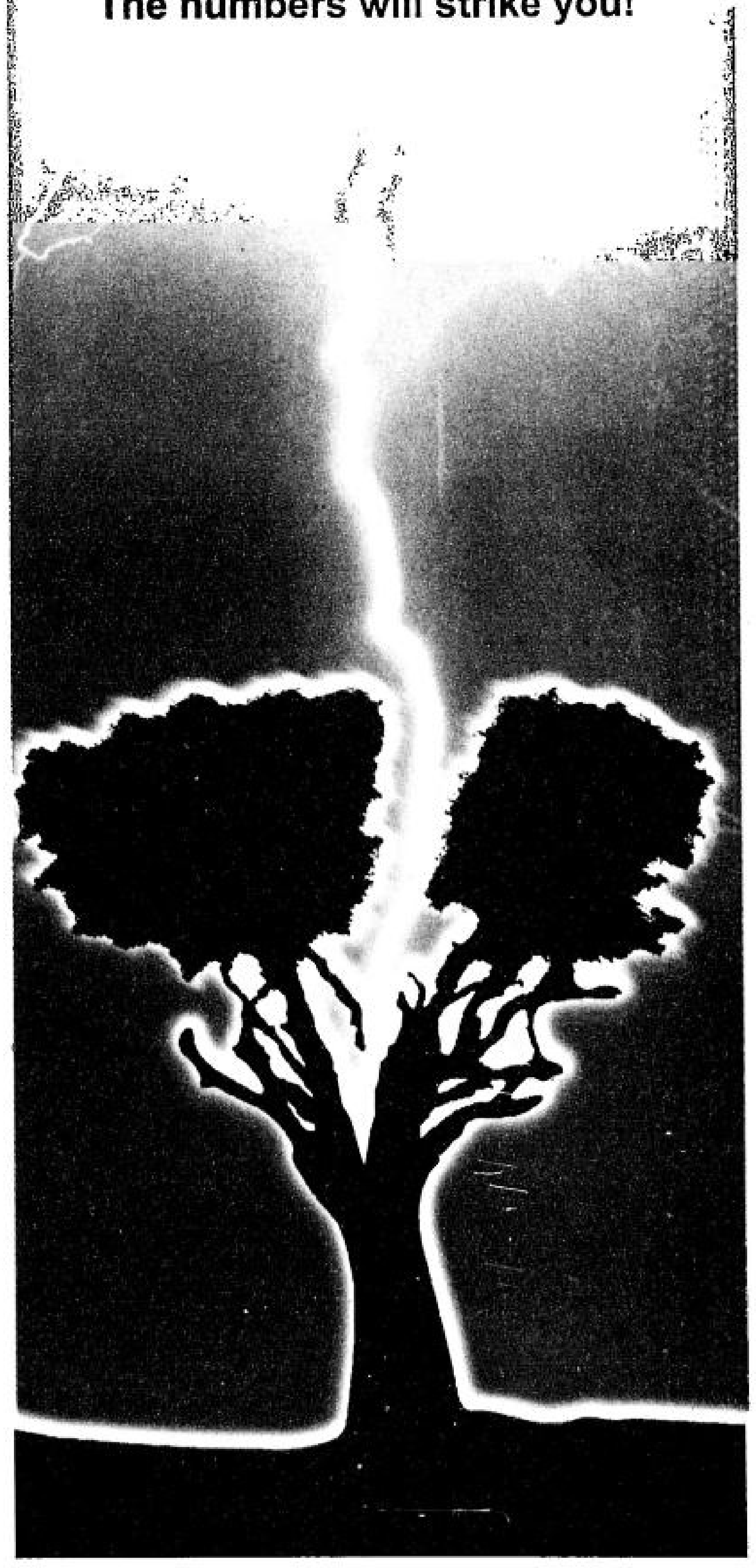

Get personal with your personal shopper

She knows your taste and preferences. She makes shopping less of a hassle

By Margie T. Estrella
Photos by Roger Carpio

CASUAL look put together by the personal shopper

THERE are different types of shoppers. Some spend the entire day browsing without having any particular thing in mind. Otherwise known as the "I'll know it when I see it" shoppers, they can be dropped off at the mall in the morning and picked up in the evening. There are also the "Let's cut to the chase" shoppers who walk straight into a store, and head toward the item that they need and bolt right out of the store within minutes. And somewhere in between is the rest of the population who either like to shop but have no time or need to shop but have no desire.

Shopping sounds fairly simple and easy—usually it is. But it can get pretty complicated when time is of the essence or if one is confused with what to get. Every now and then the shopper needs help to find what she is looking for. The personal shopper can provide that help.

What is typically found in a department store? Women's wear, men's wear, clothes for teens, baby clothes, toys, linens, perfume, shoes, bags, scarves, luggage… the list goes on. All these items are located in various areas of the store. At times, the store almost feels like a labyrinth.

When a customer is in no mood to go around, the personal shopper can do it instead.

Personal helper

A personal shopper's job is precisely that—to shop. They help other people shop by pre-selecting items that their customers might be interested in. Clothes, shoes and other accessories are gathered and brought to one part of the store where the customer can pick and choose the items he or she wants. The customer then does not have to deal with the hassle of crowded fitting rooms and moving from one floor to another. There is no need to imagine how an entire outfit will look since the clothes as well as the accessories can be viewed as a whole in the same area. As a result, what would have normally taken a whole day to perform could be finished in a considerably shorter period.

TROPICAL look, replete with accessories

STRAPPY sandals to go with the outfit

HARMONIZING the accessories wardrobe

The personal shopper also acts as a stylist. Delia Vargas, a personal shopper at Rustan's Makati, not only selects clothes and accessories for the customer. She also knows the client's size, coloring and lifestyle. By knowing all this information, she can come up with several options that will personally suit each individual customer.

The selection is placed in an office, which is arranged much like a living room for a more casual setting. In this office, the customer can take as much time as she needs to try on the outfits and make her choice.

It's all about making the customer feel at home. There is no pressure to hurry.

Spending time with customers one-on-one truly makes the relationship between the personal shopper and the client a personal one. In time, the personal shopper will get to know the personality and preferences of the customer. The personal shopper informs clients about upcoming sales, future events and new goods.

According to Shalee Ditching, customer services manager at Rustan's Makati, personal shoppers are "the eyes and ears of the customers while walking around the store. A personal shopper knows that his client would appreciate a particular outfit when he sees one. He'll get it for his client so that he saves time."

Gift scout

Personal shoppers not only help clients look for goods. They can also lend a hand in looking for gifts. In this case, they also familiarize themselves with their clients' relatives and friends to whom the gifts will be given. The personal shopper may pick out birthday presents and anniversary gifts when the customer is busy with work or out of town. The gifts don't necessarily have to be clothes; they may be cosmetics, houseware or even jewelry.

Personal shoppers cater to people who often have no time to shop. Their assistance is especially handy during busy seasons like Christmas when there are countless parties to attend and many gifts to give. People seeking advice on what to wear for special occasions also go to the personal shopper for help.

For instance, a customer needs help on what wear for an afternoon wedding, or another customer needs to find something to wear for a job interview. The personal shopper knows what is appropriate.

There's more to the personal shopper than just buying clothes for other people. Maybe their title should instead be professional shoppers. On the other hand, the personal aspect of the service should be taken to heart. It's about knowing the customer and treating her like family.

Personal shoppers have a trained eye and take that extra effort when it comes to customer satisfaction. They serve as stylists, fashion consultants and possibly even as friends. They take the hassle out of shopping by giving the customer a less hectic environment to shop in. They also save their customers valuable time and effort.

Personal shoppers add a new dimension to shopping. Although personal shoppers are not found in all stores, stores that provide the assistance ensure first-rate service. So, the next time you're in a store, find out if there is a personal shopper around.

THE PERSONAL shopper attends to the client.

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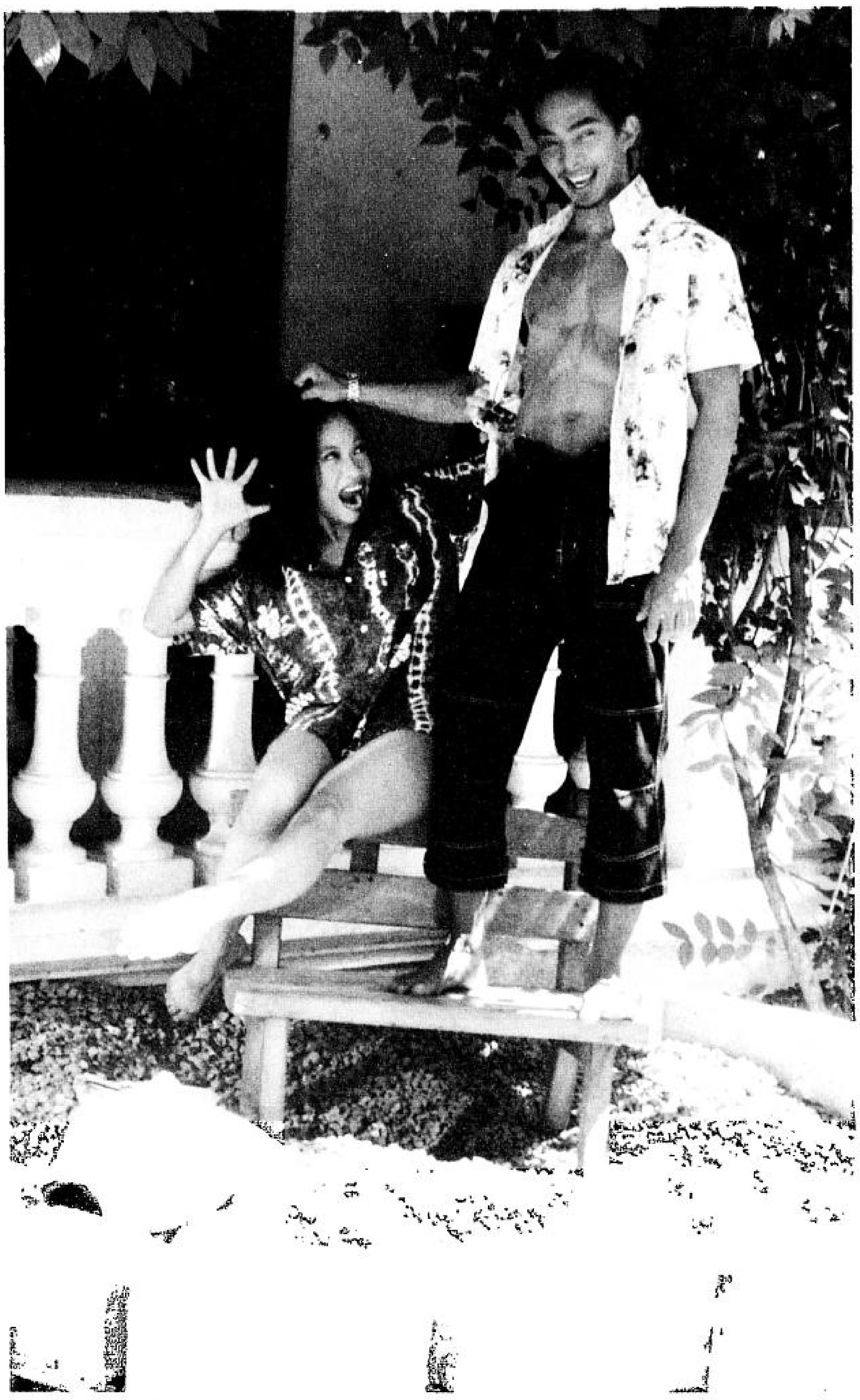
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0609 Series of 2001



HE wears a shirt with coconut prints, P595, and denim cut-off pants, P449. She wears his blue floral tie-dye shirt, P375.

MODELS: CAMILLE ORDINARIO AND IRISH ABEJERO OF BALLET PHILIPPINES

Don't let the sun go down on prints

Be light and loose—that's tropical dressing

By Camille T. Cruz
Photo by Chito Vecina
PICTORIAL DIRECTION BY ALBERT AVELLANA

DESPITE the coming of rains, we should not discard yet our favorite tropical prints.

Shirts left tucked out and casual are usually along the printed lines, from floral to geometrically loud. Yes, a man can carry it off. A perfect look may be a shirt and a comfortably fitted pair of pants—perhaps not-so-baggy cargo pants, simple white pants, or nicely cut khakis. It really depends on the type of print. For florals with a solid base color (like large red flowers), a slim pair of pants will be great.

There is a way of mixing printed tops without appearing too sloppy. A shirt with palm tree prints would easily go with capri-style denims for men. These capris actually look decent with a shirt of a slim fit tucked out. The key here is not to drown the body. Make prints and paints complement the silhouette of the body.

There is still reason to go fashionably lively in this kind of weather. Don't let the rains get you down.

All items available at J18, G/F Glorietta II, Ayala Center, Makati; SM Mega Mall.

Express your style in sunglasses

LUNETTE, the French word for eyewear, not only aptly names this popular accessory but conceptualizes what Lacoste stands for in fashion. This attitude was started by French tennis legend Rene Lacoste, who hit a double in 1926 by winning the US Open Tennis Championship and creating comfortably sleek shirt lines he himself wore during the championship. The rest, of course, is history for this legend who, in 1927, the American press dubbed as Le Crocodile for his tenacious on-court demeanor during the Davis Cup matches. The moniker stuck and became Lacoste's personal logo.

As a tennis champ with an admirable fashionable sense, Lacoste paved the way to the great Lacoste tradition. This is evident in Lacoste's collections of shirts, footwear, perfume, leather goods and eyewear—harmonizing collections with contemporary trends without changing the fundamental values on which its legend is based.

The 2001 Lacoste Lunettes is now available in leading optical shops.

At the Ladies' Shoes Department

party fare

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textured textile with
rhinestone accent

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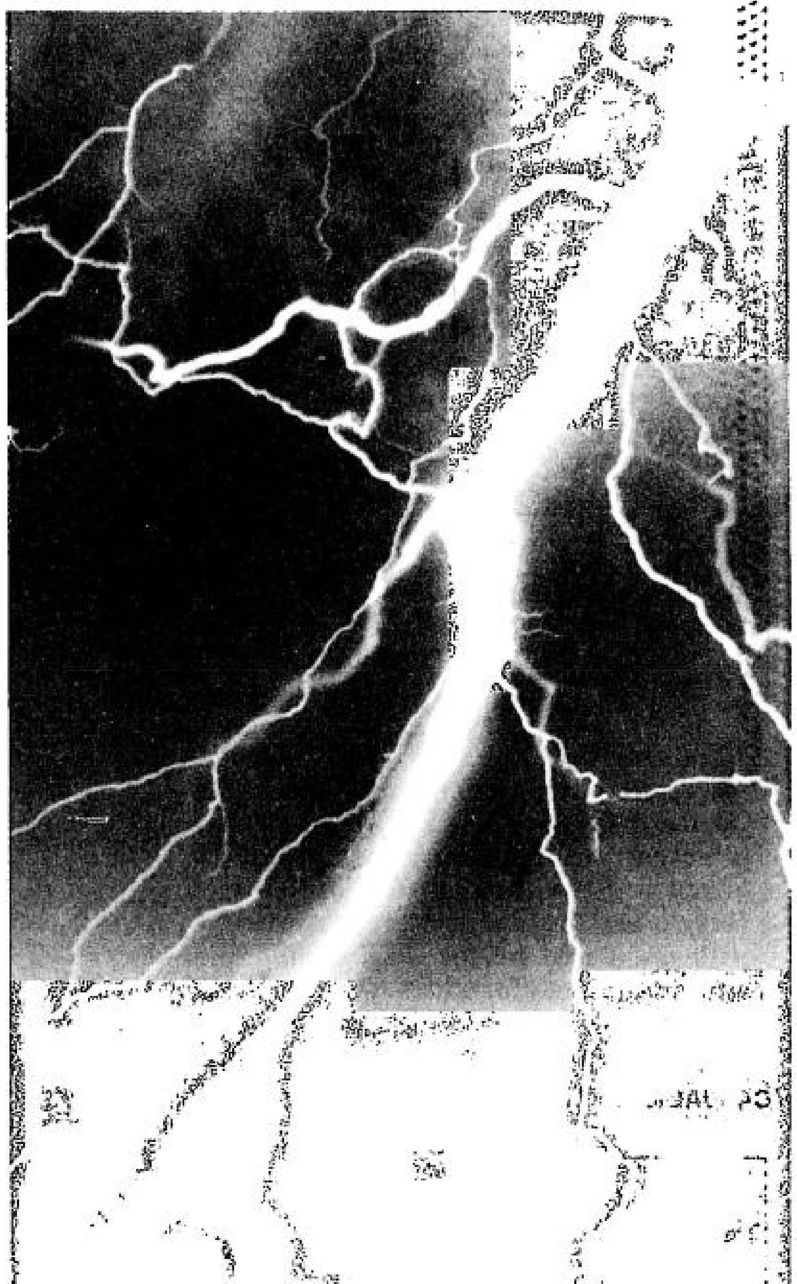

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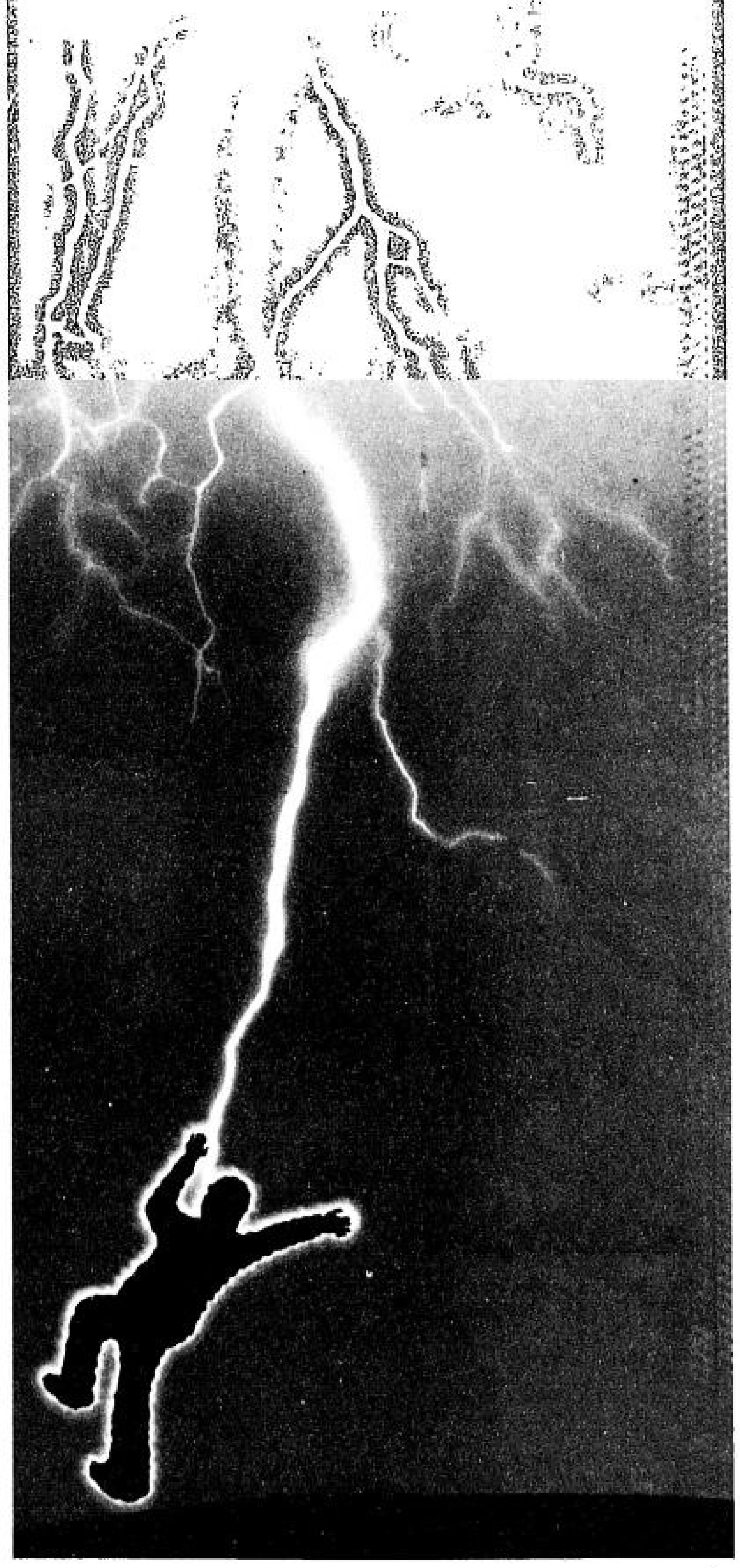
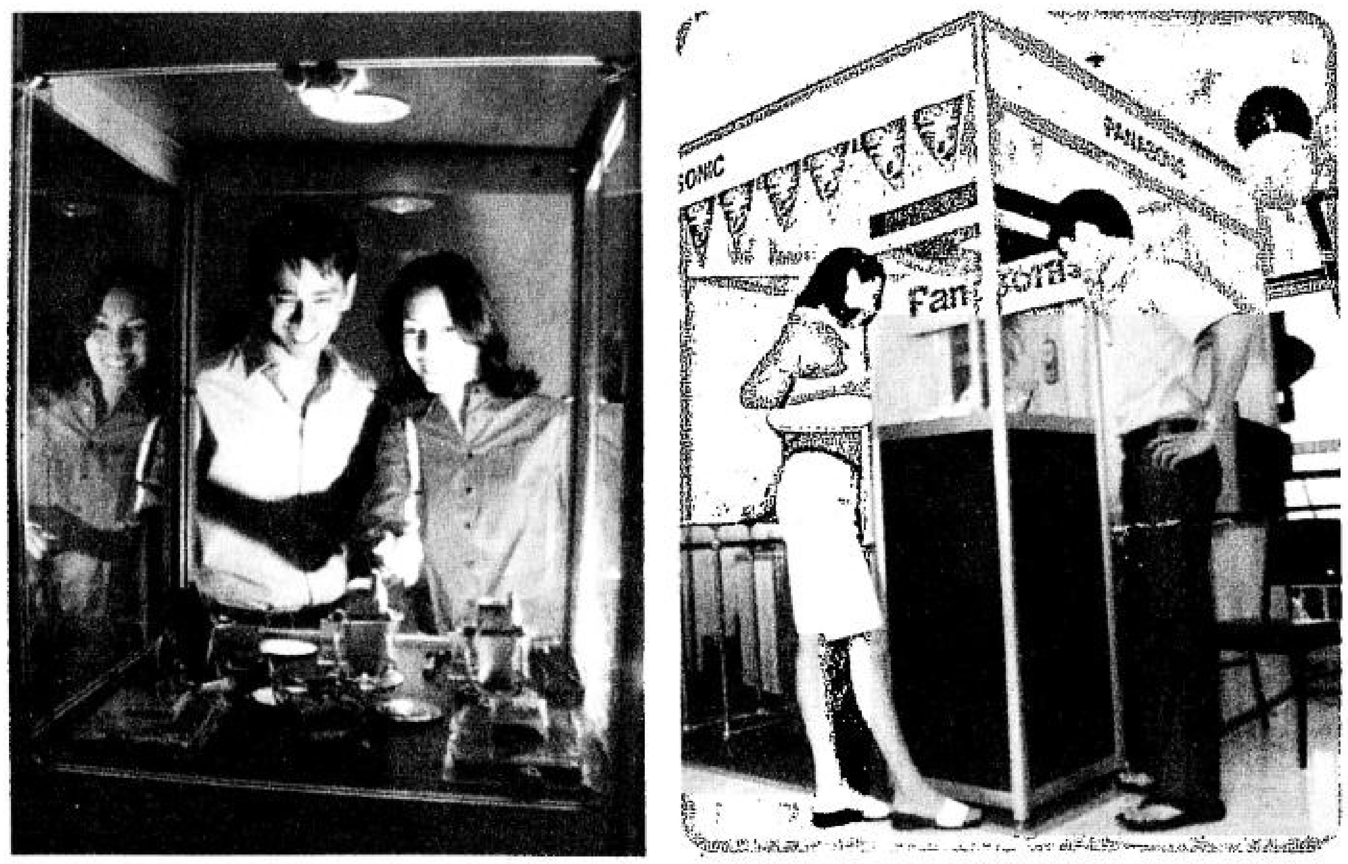


AT THE REGISTRATION. He's dressed in an orange silk shirt by Claiborne For Men and gray flat-front pants in polyblend by U2. She's wearing a checkered fuchsia sleeveless blouse in shantung and kelly pants by Apriori.



INSPECTING THE GOODS. Jay wears a light blue polo with pocket detail and denims by U2 with black thong sandals in leather by Lewre. Chrisel wears a red stretch denim blouse and white shorts in cotton twill by U2 with white leather pumps and patent bag.

High-tech 'tiangge'

PHOTOS BY CHITO VECINA
PICTORIAL DIRECTION BY JAMES REYES

IT used to be that bazaars showcased homegrown, backyard-industry products—jams, handsewn pillowcases and trinkets. Then people began to heed the call to reuse and recycle, and the bazaars were swamped with dog-eared books, used clothing and secondhand furniture. Don't look now, dearie, but the times, they continue to be a-changin'.

At the ongoing "Globevolution," a revolutionary *tiangge* organized by industry leader Globe Telecom Inc., you can snap up cellular phones and accessories at unbelievably giveaway prices: up to 73 percent off. And the incredible thing is that these are not your run-of-the-mill anonymous stalls—the discounts are given away by the brand-name suppliers and manufacturers themselves: Nokia, Eriksson, Panasonic and Siemens. Some phones are even given away for free!

This "cellular madness" sale, which runs until Sunday, takes place simultaneously in Alabang Town Center, Glorietta, SM City North Edsa and SM Megamall in Metro Manila. "Globevolution," a special project of Globe Handyphone, Globe's cellular phone service, is also at Ayala Center in Cebu and Victoria Plaza in Davao.

Prepaid phone kits at the "Globevolution"—which come complete with a digital cell phone and ready-to-use Globe SIM card loaded with P550 call card value—go as low as P2,990. For those buying SIM packs without the phones, the discounted price for a regular SIM is only P350 and only P500 for a menu-enhanced GlobeXplore SIM.

On top of the discounts for phones and SIM packs, Globe is also waiving registration fees for all deals.

At the "Globevolution," credit card purchases of more than P5,000 using BPI, Equitable, RCBC, Bankard or Citibank credit cards are offered zero cash-out, zero-interest terms—with a deferred payment arrangement of three months to boot.

Even non-Globe cell phone users can go to "Globevolution" and get Globe-connected by simply swapping their non-Globe working SIMs and paying only P300 airtime value.

Completing the "Globevolution" experience are all the additional gifts, prizes and freebies that customers would get by getting Globe-connected. All subscriptions availed of at the "Globevolution," whether postpaid or prepaid, come with a GlobeXplore SIM at no additional cost. A free P250 call card value is also given for every phone kit purchased. Instant prizes also await new subscriptions.

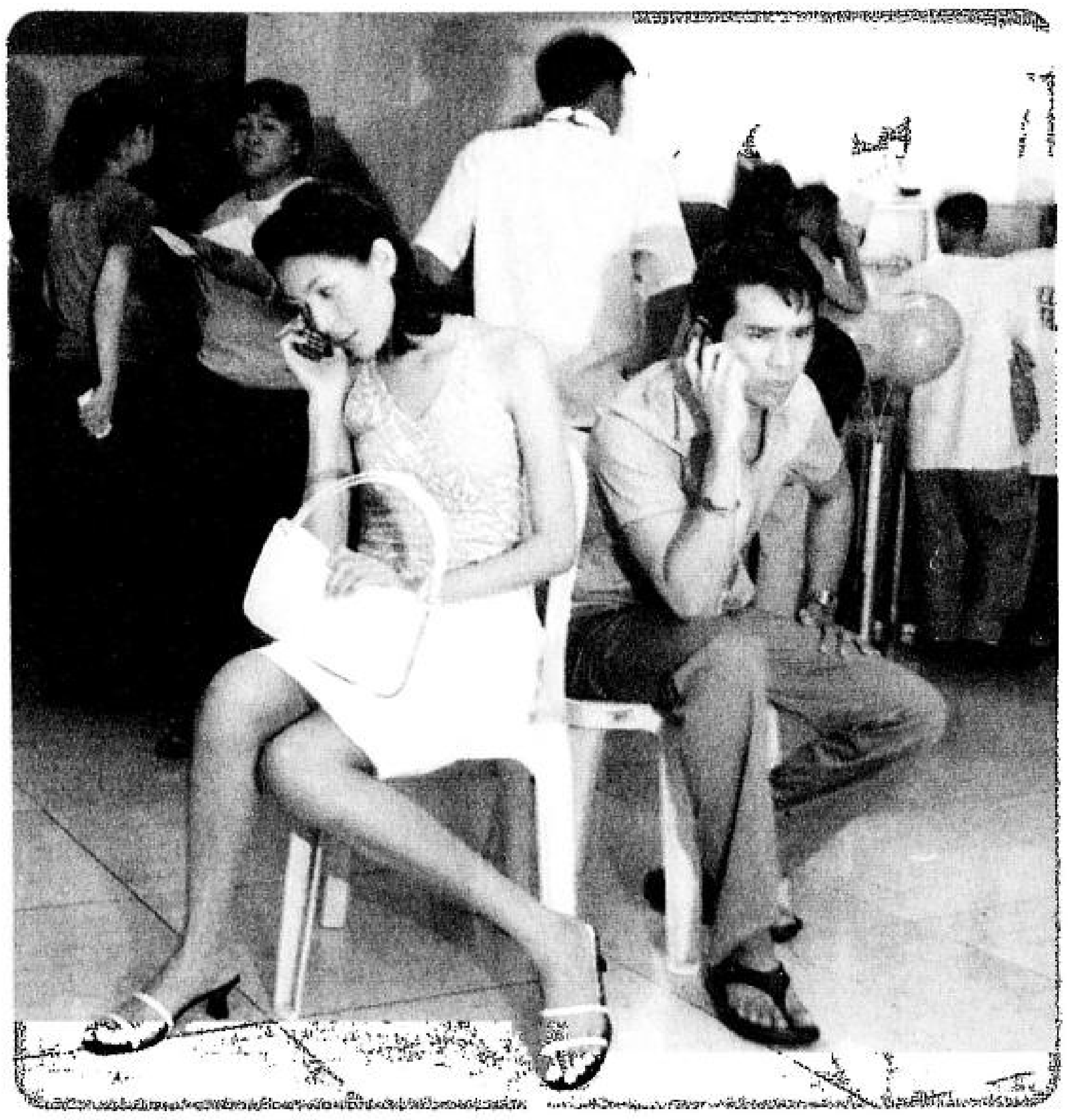
"Globevolution" patrons may win raffle prizes, such as cameras, Palm Pilots, cell phones, flat-screen TVs, VCD mini-components, video cameras and DVD players. All new subscribers who get Globe-connected through "Globevolution" may win in Globe's 3M TNX 2U draw on June 6, or may drive away with a handsome 2001 Mercedes Benz C200.

HANDYPHONE

RPN news anchor Jay Esteban and model Chrisel Agudo spend their weekend shopping for their new toy, the mobile. He's wearing a camel long-sleeved polo in cotton by Claiborne For Men, denim pants by U2 and camel leather sandals by Axen. She's wearing a watermelon belted blouse and checkered kelly pants in shantung by Apriori, accessorized with fuchsia patent thong sandals and a patent bag.

JAY wears a white drawstring linen polo and black denim pants by U2 and black thong sandals by Lewre. Chrisel wears a geometric printed shirred neck blouse in chiffon by Viseversa, a denim midi denim skirt by U2 and red patent strappy sandals and a red patent bag

MODELS: JAY ESTEBAN AND CHRISEL AGUDO OF CAL CARRIE
HAIR AND MAKEUP BY MATT DEL VALLE OF RODGER CRAIG
JAY'S SANDALS BY TRAFFIC, ROCKWELL POWER PLANT
WOMEN'S SHOES AND BAGS BY VISEVERSA
SPECIAL THANKS TO DIMPY JAZMINES



ATTENDING TO URGENT CALLS. Chrisel wears a printed aqua spaghetti-strapped knit top and white cotton twill midi by U2, and white patent strappy sandals and patent bag by Viseversa. Jay wears an aqua polo with zip detail in stretch cotton and gray flat-front pants by U2, and thong sandals by Lewre.

HOSTS Linda and Kenneth Fong are flanked by Best Costume winners Mellie and Louie Ablaza

LINDA Velayo Fong, Johnny Litton and Vicky Assad

DANNY Dolor, Cory Quirino and Ben Farrales

A gust of Tahiti in Manila

Hawaii-based Kenneth and Linda Fong treat their pals to a spirited Tahitian feast

IT seemed like half of Manila's most glamorous women were at the Manila Polo Club on May 24 for a pumped-up Tahitian shindig hosted by Hawaii-based couple Kenneth and Linda Fong. For the record, the choice of party theme was most appropriate since the genial hosts are avid advocates of that phenomenal health supplement drink known worldwide as Morinda Tahiti Noni Juice.

Kenneth is a top international insurance agent whose clients include some of the biggest names in Philippine business and society. His wife, the former Linda Velayo, ran the fashion boutique Piropos in what is now Ayala Center before she moved to New York and later Honolulu.

Ricky Hora, a respected name in the local legitimate theater, showed his untapped talent in decoration. With able assistance from floral stylist George Cabullo's artistic flower arrangers Romy Bañez and Nathaniel Robles, Hora transformed the Manila Polo Club's Cameron Forbes Room and the adjoining poolside area with exotic blooms, highlighting them with romantic hurricane lamps and tropical torches. The floral table linens and the centerpieces made of white sand, fresh orchids and wine goblets containing strands of pearls elicited as much raves as the splendid buffet luau prepared by the Polo Club kitchen.

Sure winner

Guest of honor was Sen. Juan Flavier, whose reelection for another term in the Senate looks like a sure thing, judging from his consistent top three placing in the Comelec canvass. The senator and his wife Susan, who was with him at the party, are known to be Morinda drinkers and have openly endorsed it to friends.

Joining the Flaviers at the main table were former solicitor general Frank Chavez, raconteur par excellence Johnny Litton, top Morinda distributor Larry Lim from Honolulu and Del Williams from Morinda's world headquarters in Salt Lake City, Utah; Myrna Espinosa, whose husband Gen. Edgardo "Spine" Espinosa is our representative in Taiwan; publisher Antonio Cabangon Chua, and Beth Micaller, the only Morinda Double Diamond member from the Philippines.

A strictly-for-fun contest to choose the best costumes of the party spiced up the affair. Earning high points—and going home with bottles of Tahiti Noni Juice and attractive Morinda freebies—were Yolly Ayson, Len Olbes, Lillibeth Campos, Maurice Arcache and George Vail Kabristante. But the top honors went unanimously to the popular couple Mellie and Louie Ablaza who were voted by "on-the-spot judges" Pitoy Moreno, Danny Dolor and Ben Farrales as the Tahiti Queen and King of the Night. In addition to limited edition premium-packed Morinda bottles, the winning pair received an all-expense-paid holiday to Boracay.

Other lady guests who deserve special mention for their colorful island attire were Myrna Borromeo, Heritage Hotel's hardworking F&B promotions manager Geena Zablan, dusky beauty Joanne Matschuck, dance maven Maribel Dario, Polo Club regular Vicky Assad, Cita Fernandez, Offie Garcia, Betty Chua, Vicky Dee, Thesa Garcia, restaurateur Kathy Park of the Korean diner Kaya, Mary Grace Katigbak, vivacious Rosanna Peña, TV host Cory Quirino, winsome Rowena Aquino, ballroom queen Becky Garcia, seductive Ginajane Grey and fashion plate Fe Rodriguez.

Bright gents

Not to be "out-dressed" were fine gents who wore their brightest and colorful Hawaiian outfits. Among them were recent groom Martin Romualdez and pal Robert Young, Paqui Campos, Serge Ayson, L.A.-based designer Eddie Ocampo, antique collector Ernie Liwanag, former Lions president Frank Evaristo, Bulgari man Mario Katigbak, PR wiz Bob Zozobrado, fishing magnate Francis Tin Laurel, Capt. Chuchi Reyes, Capt. Reuben Sternberg of Philippine Airlines, Dr. Arte Imperio and Andy Santos and Bong Roxas who are on leave from the Owwa office in Rome.

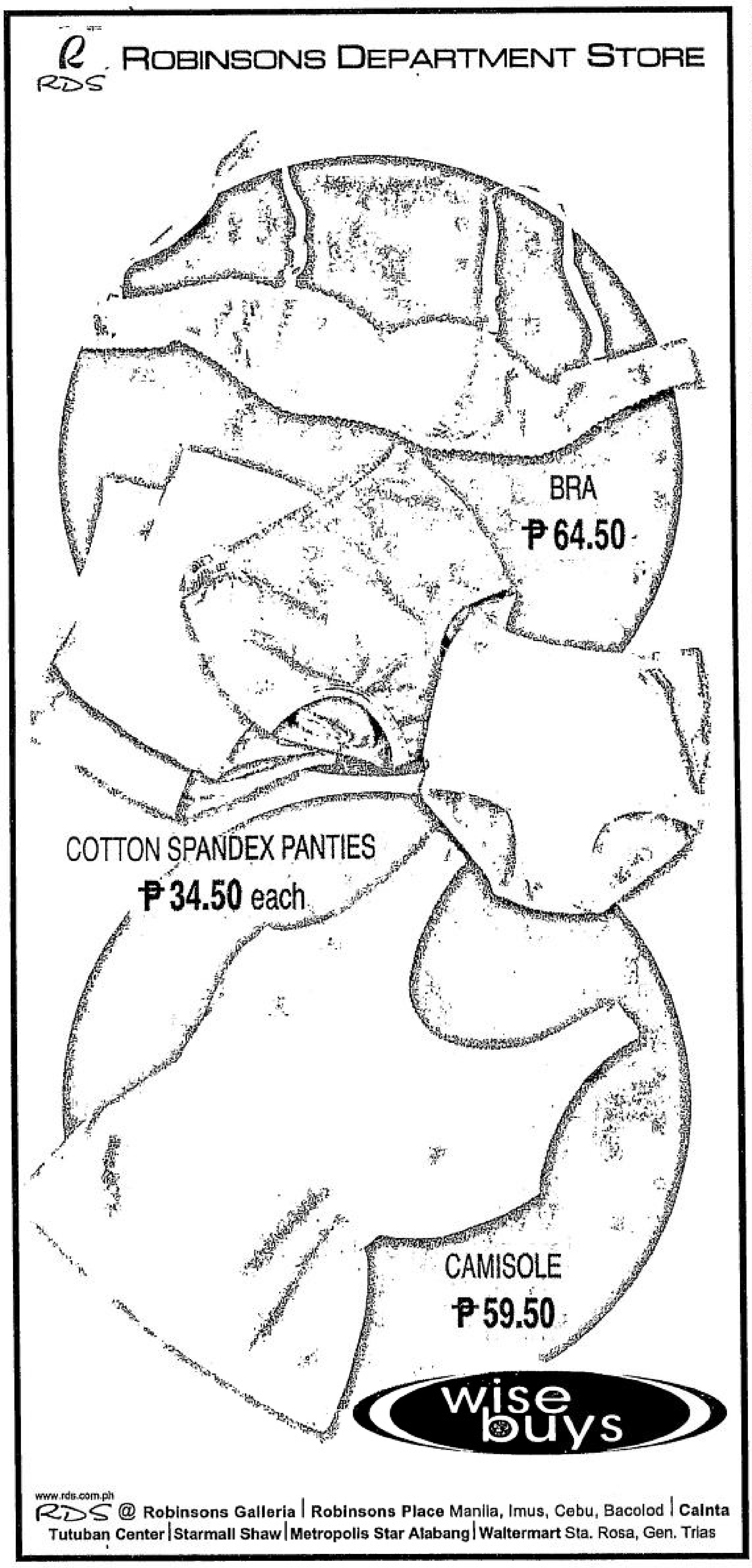
Providing more tropical ambience, not to mention pulchritude, were the lovely usherettes—Bodyshots model discoveries Grace Roque, Kathy Moya and Diane Espedido—and lone male usher John-C Borjel. Dressed in authentic sarong, they welcomed early comers like Fortune Ledesma, Evie Costa, Jewelmer's prime pearl Baby Cruz, Franck Provost's Peggy Castañeda, Margie Ongkeko and Bennie Espina, and led them to the flower-bedecked tent by the swimming pool where the Morinda tasting station was being manned by local Morinda executive John Balledos, Richard Nixon Gomez and Dylan Custodio.

It was one of the most enjoyable parties—and certainly one of the most fun-filled social events—of the fast-ending summer. To Kenneth and Linda, congratulations and aloha! *Donnie C. Ramirez*

VIP guests Frank Chavez and Sen. Johnny and Susan Flavier

DELL Williams, Evie Costa, Larry Lim and Fortune Ledesma

ROWENA Aquino and Capt. Reuben Sternberg



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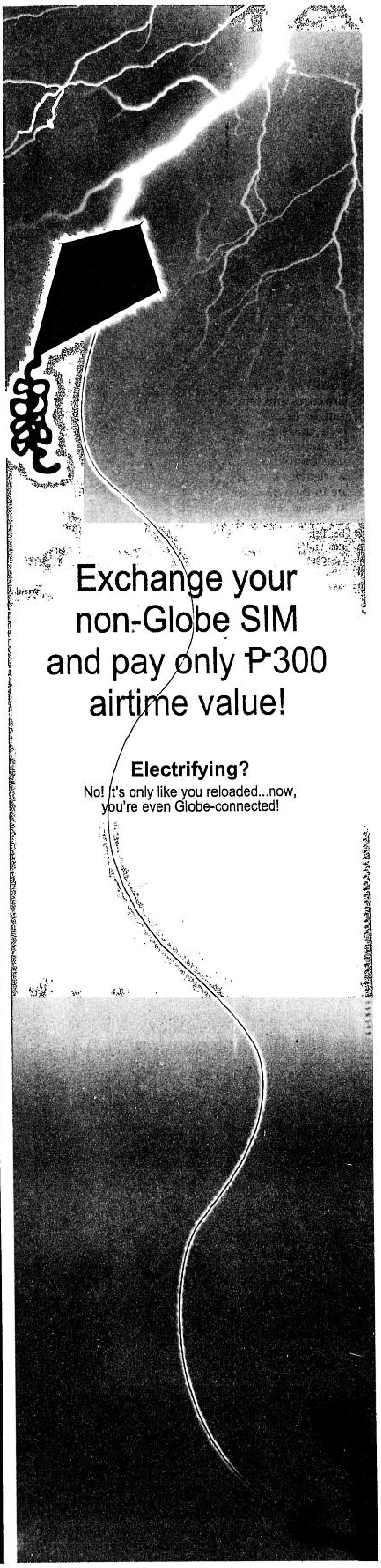

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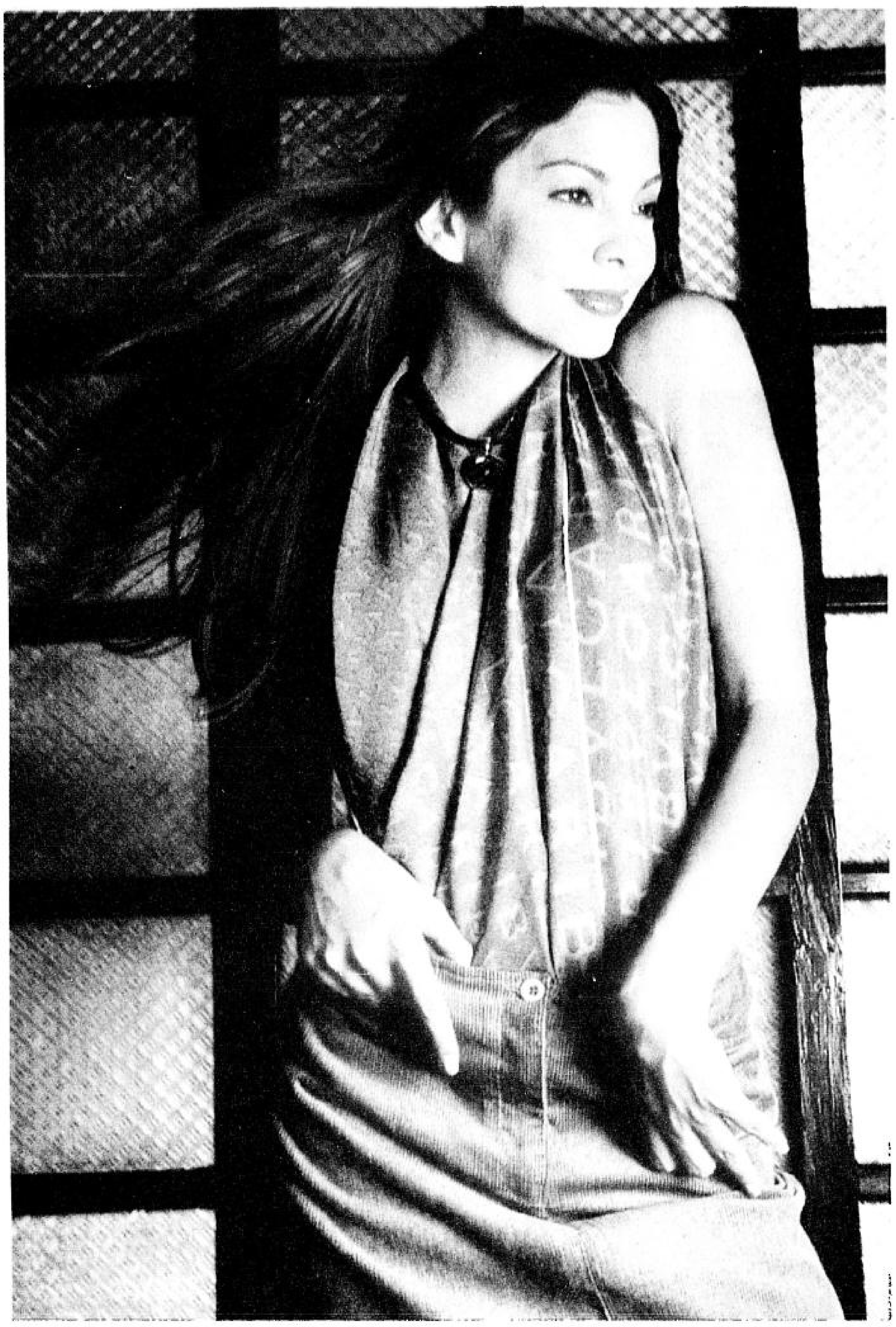
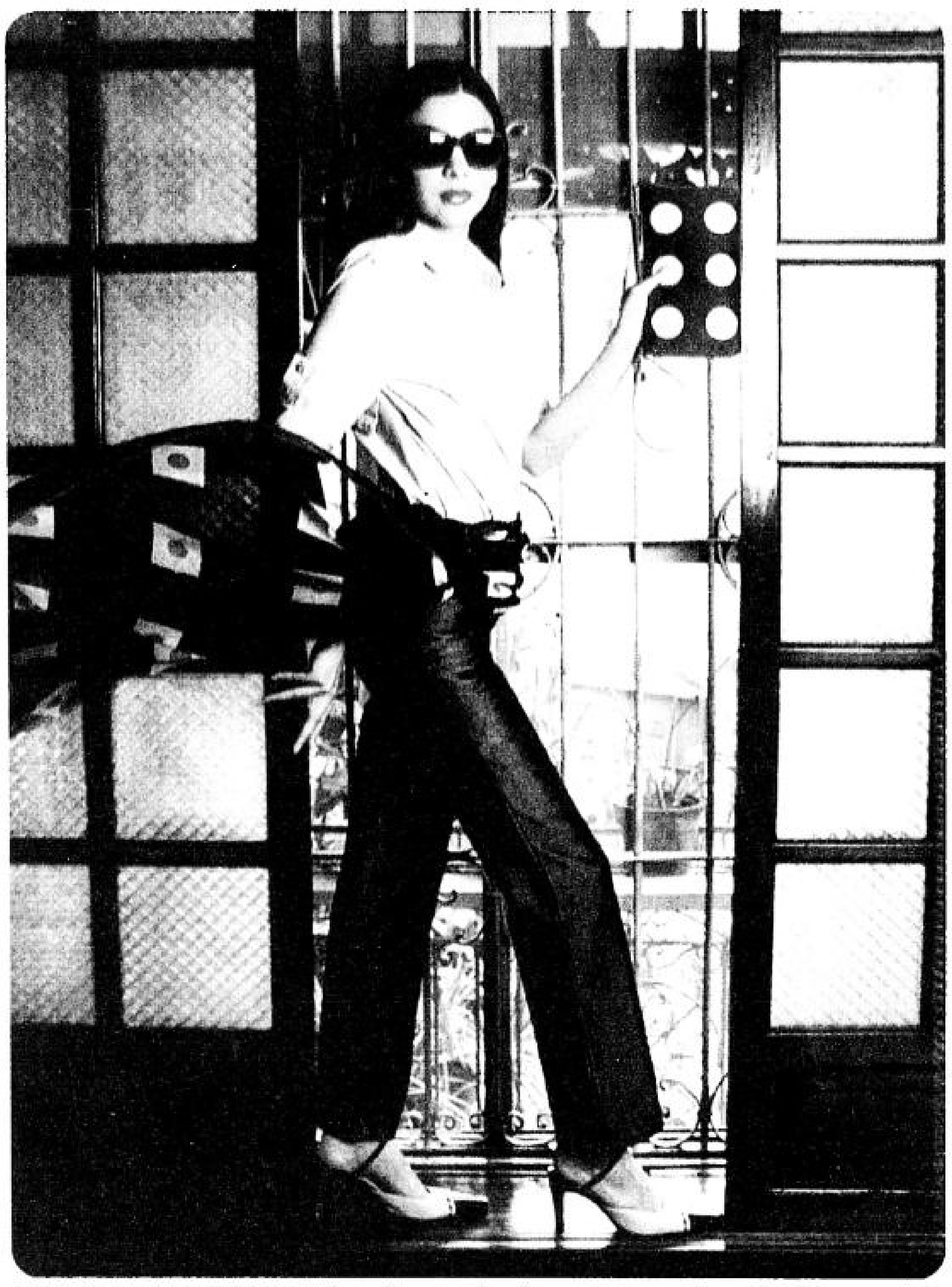


REVERSE SNOBBERY. Mix a camel corduroy skirt with a silk scarf and a leather necklace with a clover pendant in 18k yellow gold and steel from Bulgari.



CASUAL, zigzag-trimmed, long-sleeved beige polo with snap buttons and metallic denim pants from Herbench become dressy with mocha beige and navy blue kid leather sling backs and a Quadratto Logomania georgette scarf around the waist. Accentuate with big glasses and the Quadratto zip-top bag.

Amanda Griffin by demand

By Marge C. Enriquez
Photos by Raymond Lauchengco

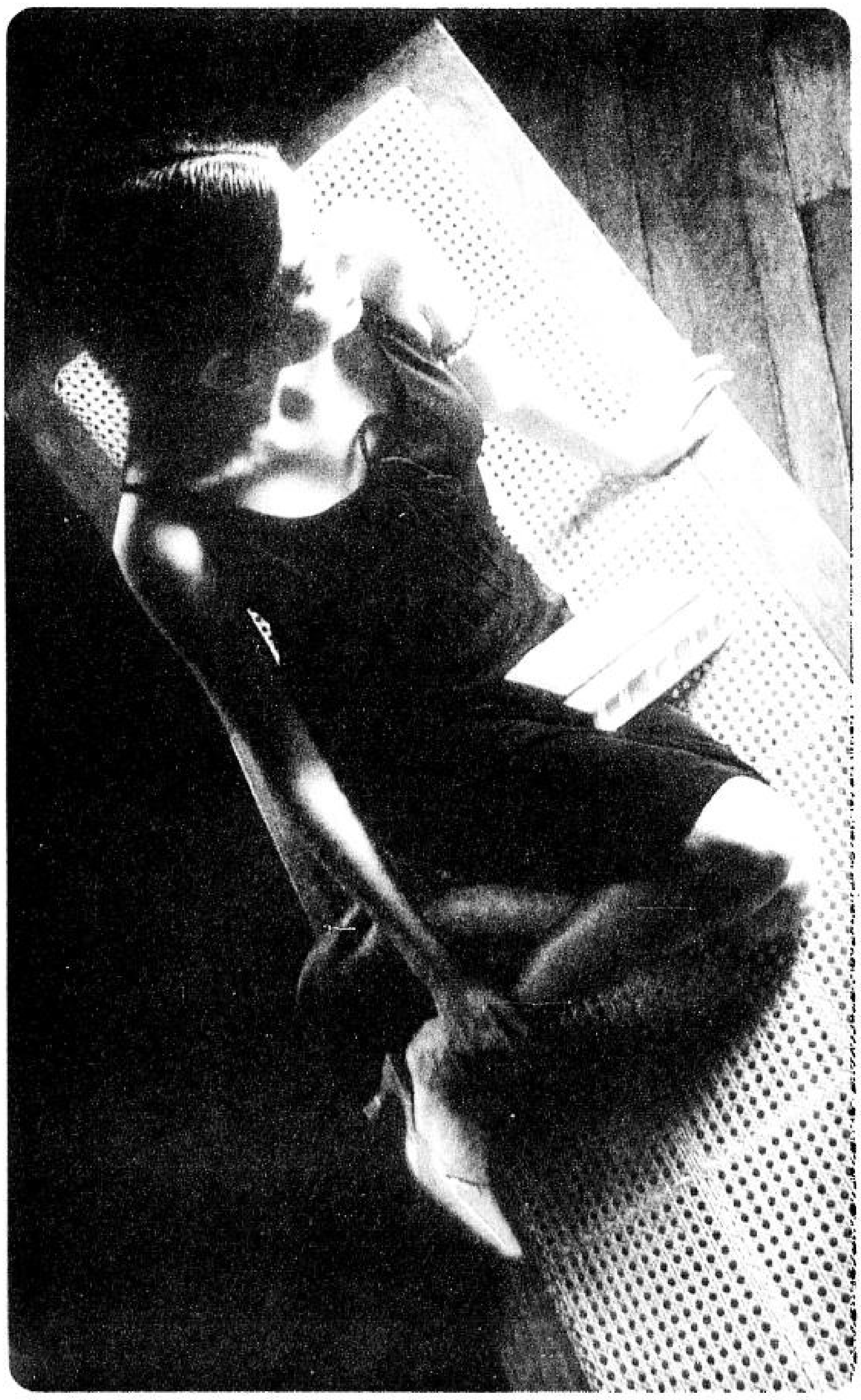
IT must have been my furious scribbling that put my subject on guard. There were no bombs to drop anyway. After all, models-turned video jocks are not controversial subjects.

How do you write about a model-VJ without falling into such clichés as "Rushing into the room, she apologized for being late and plopped into the chair for her makeup" or "She enjoys being a VJ because it allows her to travel and meet people." Haven't we heard it all before"

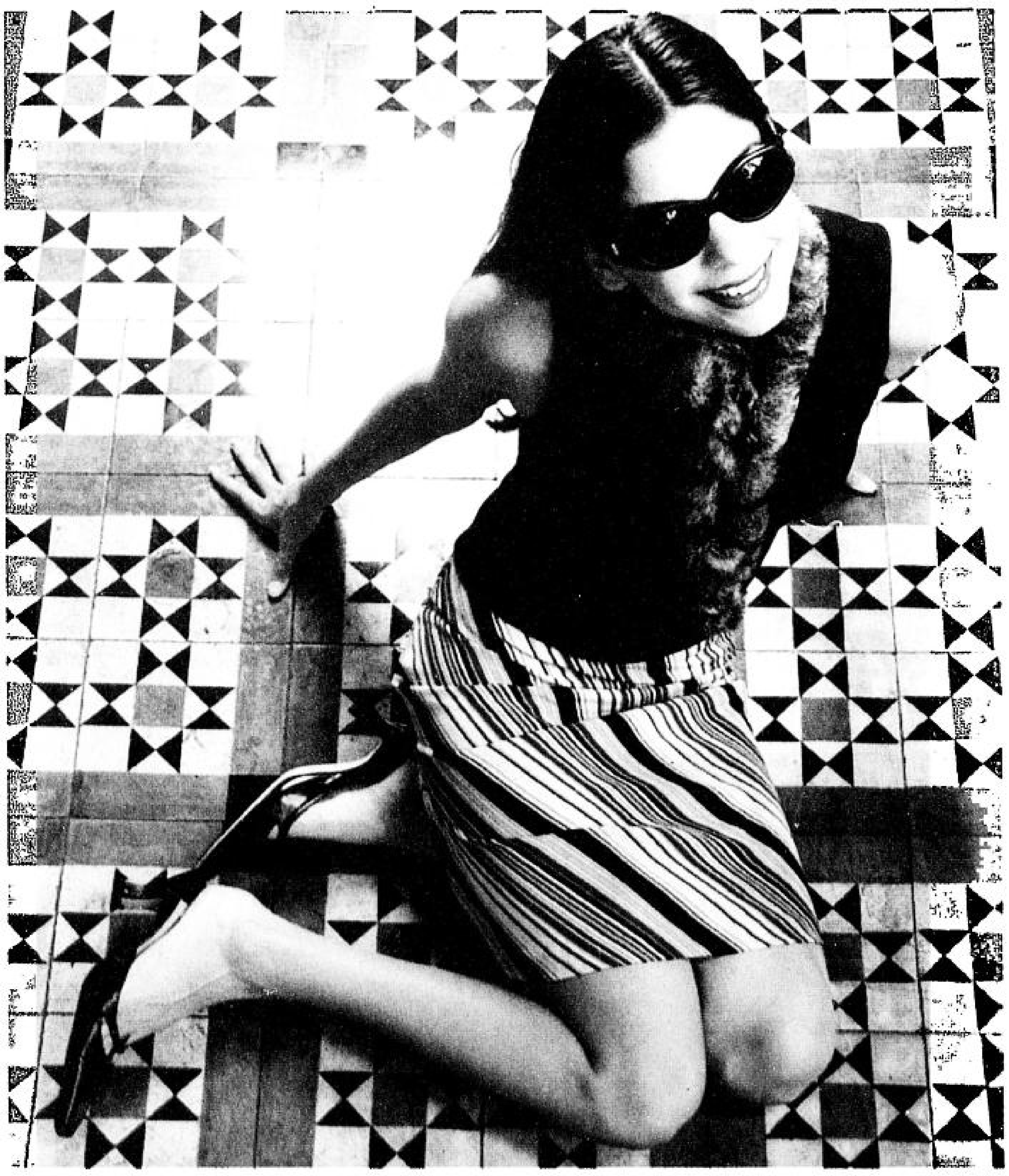
The above-mentioned happened during our shoot with Channel [V] talent and Herbench's new image model Amanda Griffin.

Amanda is one of the most popular models in glossy magazines, even more so, now that she's

AMANDA/ p. D9



ENLIVEN a deep purple dress from Herbench with fuchsia accessories such as Arlene kid leather shoes by Lila Almario and Bulgari's Quadratto Logomania clutch bag with a detachable shoulder strap. Bulgari's Tubogas Monte Carlo bracelet is worn as an armband.



THE SLEEVELESS shell with back detail in deep purple goes well with a diagonal striped bias skirt and black kid leather mules and Jackie O. glasses.

Amanda Griffin by demand

(From page D8)

the new Herbench image model. Herbench and Bench have been advancing in their marketing tack as a global brand. Ergo, the womenswear line, needs an image model that exudes East and West influences and the vibrancy of today's youth culture. Amanda, a British-Filipina raised in Australia and a Channel [V] video jockey, fits the bill.

Stunner

Without makeup, Amanda is a stunner. As Juan Sarte dabs foundation on her, she warms up to the interview.

Amanda was born on Sept. 28, 1978 in Windsor, England. She grew up in Australia's Gold Coast, but spent some time at the International School in Makati.

The modeling career was a fluke. Amanda took up advertising at Bond University in the Gold Coast. She is fascinated by the way a campaign is conceived and how it's executed to reach millions. During her sophomore year, she gained nearly 30 pounds but lost them by dieting.

When Amanda got back into her whistle-bait figure, she decided to go into modeling.

Her attitude is to enjoy the stint while the going is great. "I have a degree to fall back on," she says.

Since most products are being pitched as global brands, advertisers tend to favor Eurasian beauties. Griffin decided to focus on modeling after making her first million from lotion and shampoo ads.

It's not all roses, though. When traveling for modeling assignments, she takes the economy class. The airfare is already deducted from her fee. Sometimes she has to share an apartment with other models.

She is uncomfortable about the superficialities of the business. "It's all based on your looks," she says. Despite being a sought-after cover girl, Amanda is not spared from vitriol. "Not everyone is going to like the way you look," she says.

The most common criticism she faces is her alleged tendency to gain weight. How thin is thin? But Amanda keeps herself detached. "I just look at it as just a job," she says.

'By Demand'

Being a video jockey for Channel [V] complements her modeling career. With her chiseled features and an accent that has neither the clipped British accent nor the Australian drawl, she easily passed the audition.

The VJ is the new status symbol among the youth. It's just as glamorous as being a model. "It looks like the VJ's job is exciting because you meet stars and you travel. It doesn't look like too much work."

Amanda hosts "By Demand" thrice a week. She says she updates herself on music trends and learns as much about her subjects since everything is done extemporaneously. Going on air without any script is a challenge for anybody. Being a natural, Amanda breezes through the job. When she conducts celebrity interviews, she makes the effort to research on her own. She also augments the questions provided by the scriptwriter.

To break the trifling interview, this writer asks when was the last time she cried. Amanda answers carefully: "When I fought with my boyfriend." Of course, by the time of the interview, they had patched things up.

What's the job of your boyfriend?

"Channel [V] doesn't like to focus much on him," she says. She explains that VJs are looked upon as role models. They have to conduct themselves with propriety in public.

Later on, we find out from the gossip mill that Amanda had been seen with Paolo Araneta on Tali beach last Easter.

Tankinis

Amanda says she goes to the beach lot. Coming from a beach state and from a country famous for swimwear, she was disappointed by the lack of variety in merchandise in Manila that are sold at exorbitant prices.

With some partners, she is building an Australian brand called Isabel Enga. Shipments from Australia arrive every season. The swimwear, which is sexy and moderately priced, is sold at Planet Sports and in a Makati showroom.

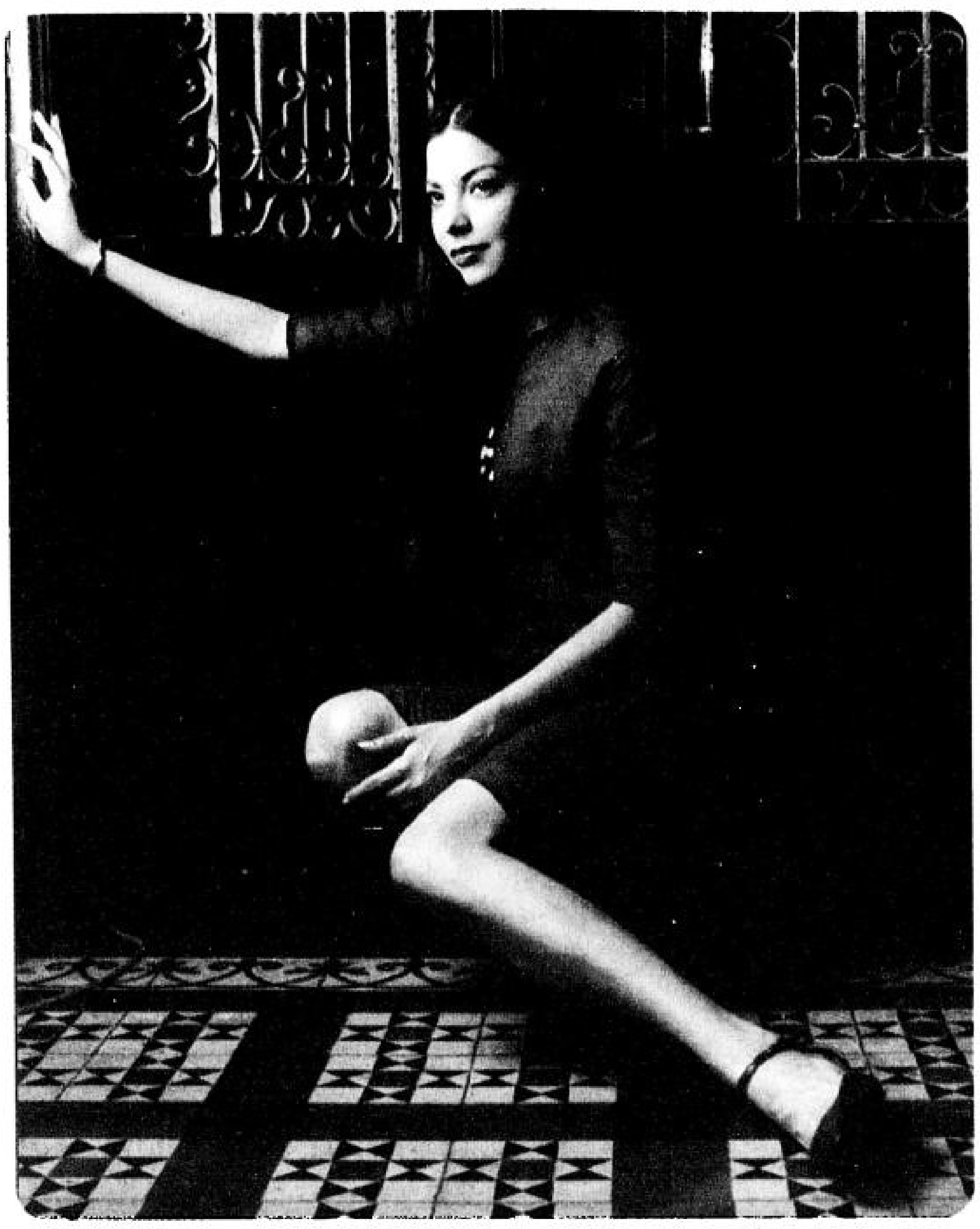
Amanda says the business has been "going well." Nearly a young clientele has consumed three-quarters of the inventory. The tankinis and boy leg bikinis are the most popular styles. Because of the enthusiastic response, the business will expand to other outlets in Rockwell and Rustan's.

She is prudent about her earnings. "I keep it in the bank. I use the rest for the rent," she says. She shares a place with some friends. Except for her father's credit card, which is used for emergency, Amanda is independent.

Like most people raised in the West, she believes in being self-reliant even if she gets married. Predictably, she says she has been instilled with Filipino conservative values like love for family and Western values like independence.

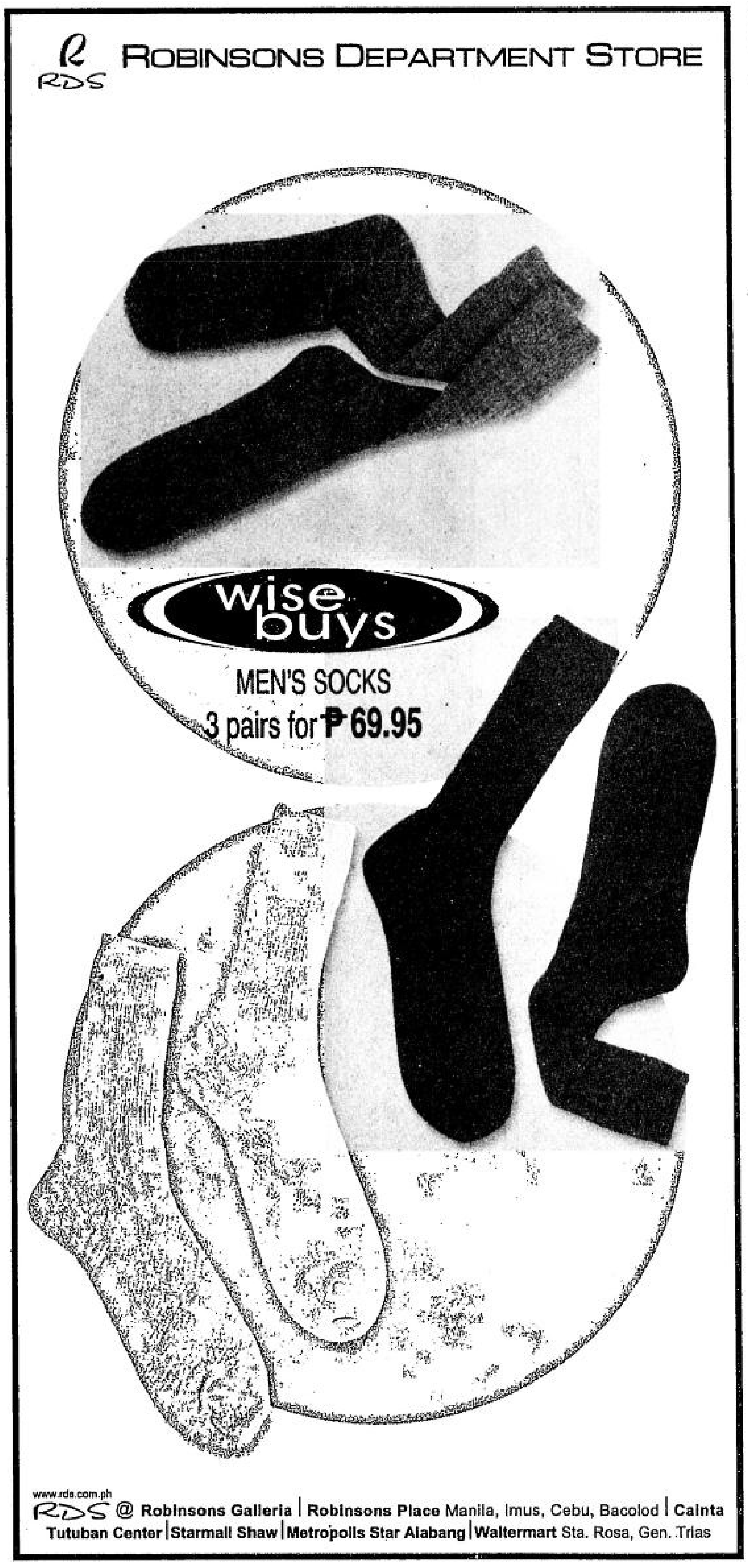
Not wanting to prolong the agony of the interview, I excuse myself. Sarte does a fabulous job on Amanda with an ethereal makeup base and finishes it off with Herbench lipstick. She is ready for the camera.

HAIR AND MAKEUP BY JUAN SARTE III
STYLIST: NOEL MANAPAT
CLOTHES FROM HERBENCH
SHOES BY LILA ALMARIO, POWER PLANT, ROCKWELL
JEWELRY, BAGS, SHADES FROM BULGARI, 6750 AYALA
LOCATION: RESIDENCE OF VICKY AGTARAP



THIS maroon cardigan and skirt from Herbench looks young with a hip shirt from Human. Accessorize with brown lizard skin shoes and Bulgari-Bulgari earrings in 18k yellow gold and steel with four discs and the Tubogas bracelet in 18k yellow gold with onyx disc.

> She's sought
> by the media
> and advertisers
> for her smiling face
> and stellar charm



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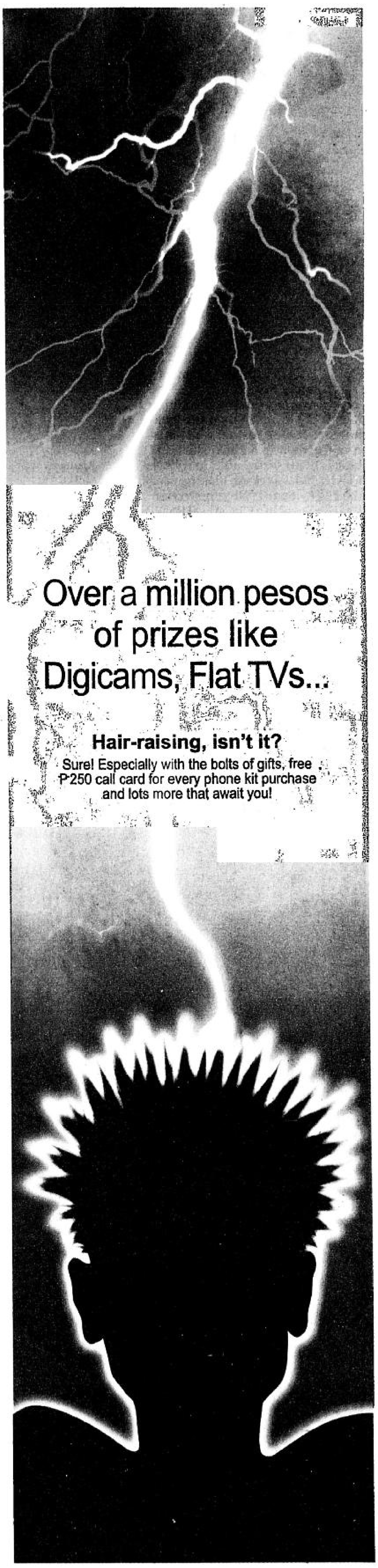

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Stand in attention! The military look is back, with fashion guns blazing

PHOTOS BY CHITO VECINA
PICTORIAL DIRECTION BY ALBERT AVELLANA

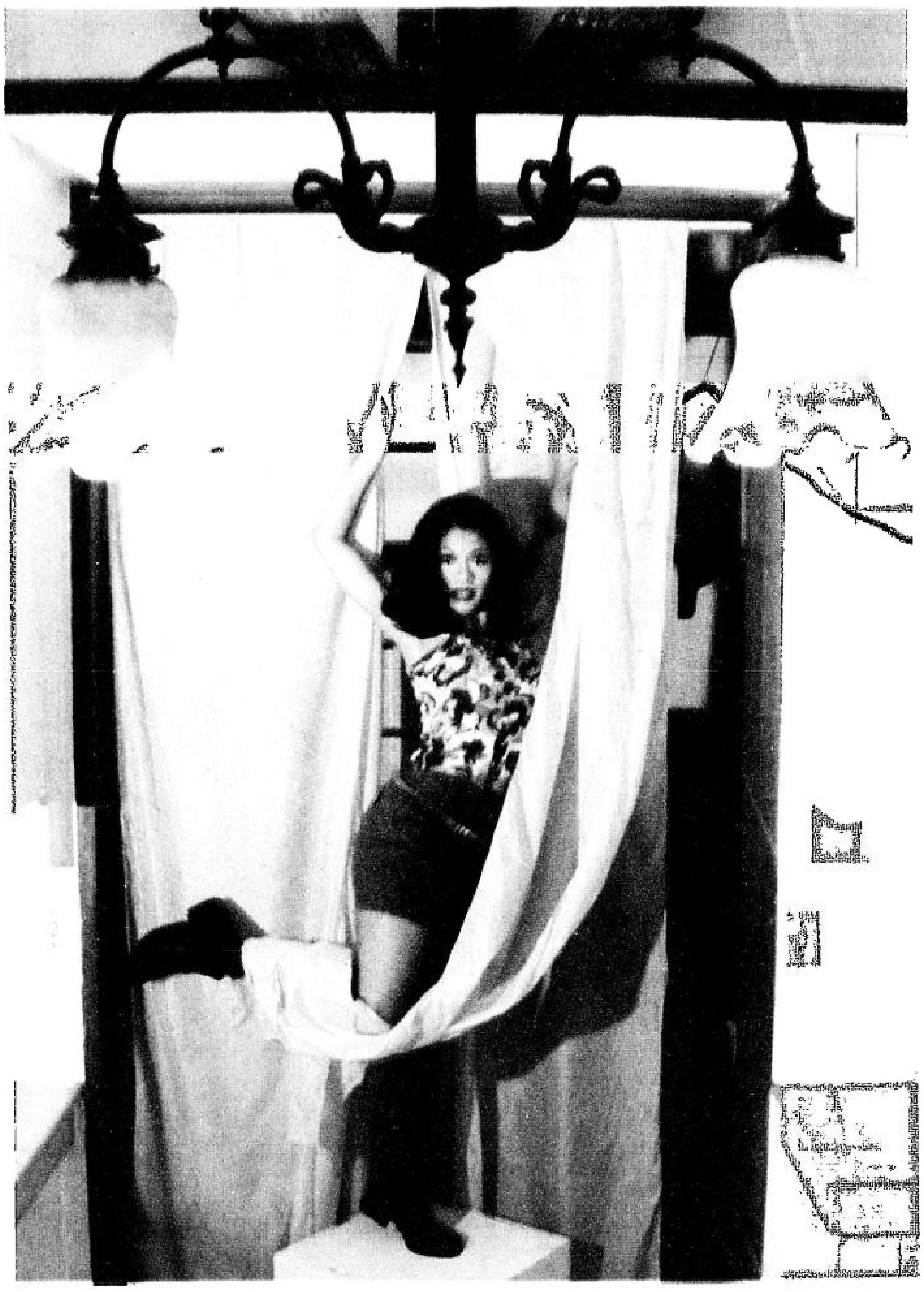
RETAILERS and garment manufacturers have proclaimed that the military look is big again. Why is the look indestructible? Just take a look at Ava Gardner in a khaki shirt and blouse being lusted after in a 1950s movie, Janet Jackson looking cool in the 1989 video of "Rhythm Nation" or Sharon Stone in a Christian Dior camouflage outfit on the cover of Elle last December.

Riding on the military mania, Oxygen's version features muted tones such as khaki, olive, blue, gray, beige, black and cub brown. Fabrics such as canvas, twill and cords are complemented by softer textures such as jersey and cotton.

Asked about the resurgence of the military look, color therapist Paola Sani explains that people would rather conform to norms rather than express their individuality.

"Uniforms can signify order or disorder," says Stefano Tonchi, creative director of Esquire. "They can signify a very precise political system—army, regimes and dictator, and on the other side, they represent counter-revolution and counter-culture."

Or they can simply give you a new style for the season.

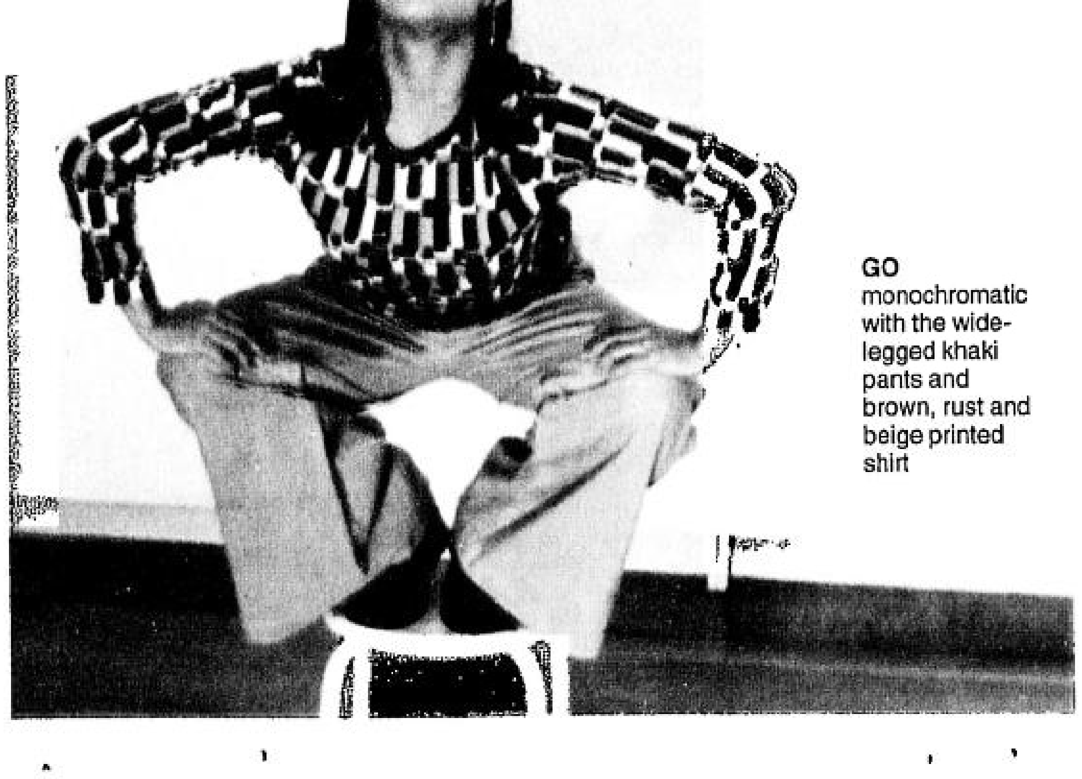


CAMOUFLAGE shirt and mini with bullet belt

BLACK cotton knit shirt with geometric mini in browns, rust and beige

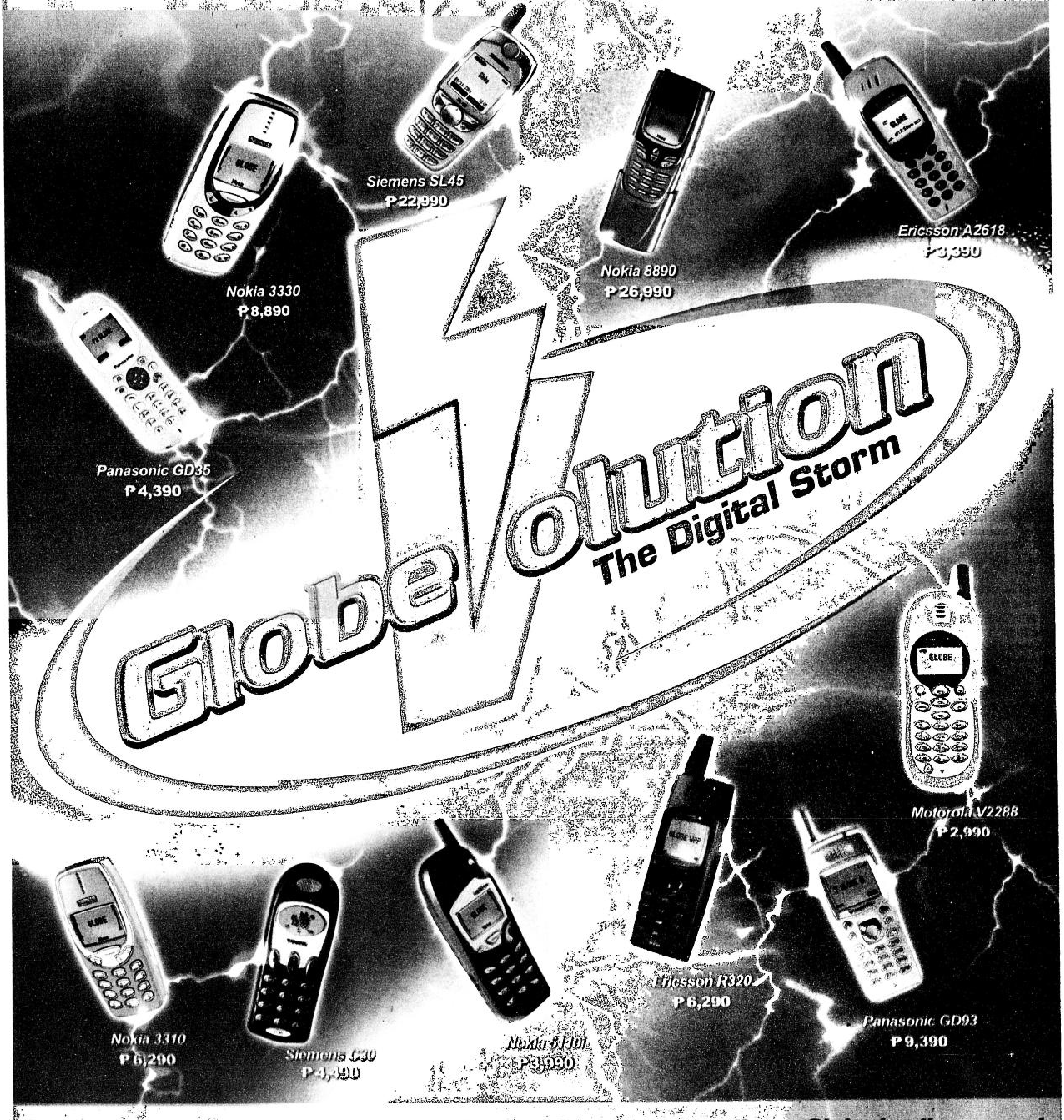
MODEL: CAMILLE ORDINARIO OF BALLET PHILIPPINES
HAIR AND MAKEUP BY JOJO ARJONA FOR TENG ROMA, EMPHASIS SALON, ROCKWELL
CLOTHES BY OXYGEN
SHOES BY ALBERTO
LOCATION: AVELLANA ARTS GALLERY

CLASSIC khaki jacket and mid-calf skirt with studded belt



GO monochromatic with the wide-legged khaki pants and brown, rust and beige printed shirt

The cellular madness strikes again!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Mary Kay honors 10 women

MARY Kay Phils. honored 10 Filipino women this month as it unveiled the names of the winners of its five-month nationwide search for the Woman with a Heart.

Mary Kay Phils. president Ana Cawa awarded plaques of recognition and P30,000 worth of Mary Kay products to each of the 10 honorees during Mary Kay Phils.' first anniversary celebrations in Makati.

Topping the list of Woman with a Heart awardees is Philippine National Red Cross Governor Rosa Rosal, who graced the affair along with fellow honorees actress Coney Reyes and economist Winnie Monsod. Representatives from other awardees Sen. Loren Legarda-Leviste and concert pianist Ingrid Sala-Santamaria were also in attendance.

Mary Kay Phils. launched Woman with a Heart in October 2000 to determine the names of 10 women who have exemplified in their lives and their works values such as integrity, service, leadership and the balance of faith, family and career. The survey was inspired by the life and success of Mary Kay Ash, founder and chair emeritus of US-based cosmetics giant Mary Kay Cosmetics.

"We believe that the role of the Filipino woman has undergone tremendous changes in the last 10-15 years," said Cawa, "that's why we ran a campaign around the country to determine the top 10 Filipino women who have made significant contributions to their community and to society as a whole."

Other Woman with a Heart awardees include Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, former President Corazon Aquino, Sen. Loren Legarda-Leviste, media professional Boots Anson-Roa, world-class concert pianist Ingrid Sala-Santamaria, women's rights advocate lawyer Katrina Legarda and TV personality Cielito "Mahal" del Mundo.

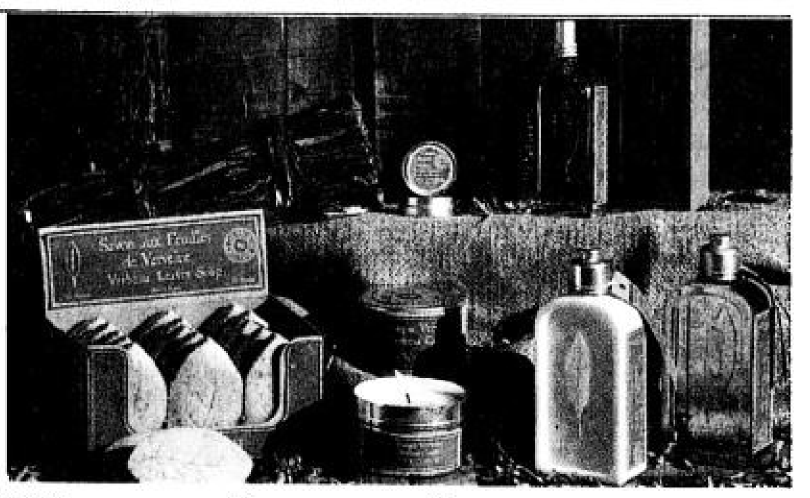
"The Filipino woman has undoubtedly taken a more proactive role in this mostly male-dominated social order," Cawa added. "Like our founder Mary Kay Ash, the women we searched for are ordinary women with big hearts and great dreams. This is clearly reflected in our list of winners."

Information on Mary Kay Phils. and on Woman with a Heart is available through Mary Kay Phils. at 893-4855.

Mary Kay Phils., the 30th international subsidiary of US-based cosmetics giant, Mary Kay Cosmetics, celebrated its first anniversary on May 12, marking one year of phenomenal commercial operations in the Philippines, and making way for more aggressive penetration clothe local cosmetics industry.

Celebrating its theme, "We're 1 in 2001," Mary Kay launched "Fashion," the very first fashion show organized by Mary Kay featuring its unique line of color cosmetics, with clothing by up-and-coming designer Carlo Jequinto.

Launched in April 2000 at three major hotels in Manila and Cebu, Mary Kay Phils. began with 4,558 beauty consultants on its first month of operations and has since grown to about 10,000 direct sales representatives nationwide, including more than 20,000 independent sales directors.



Harvesting verbena scents

DO you care to rub some witches grass all over your body? Witches grass, which grows in the Mediterranean basin, is the main ingredient in L'Occitane's newest line of body products dubbed Verbena Harvest.

Verbena Harvest is L'Occitane's homage to *verbena officinalis* or witches grass, a shrub that was given the infamous name because of its cure-all properties. In traditional medicine, it is used to relieve pain and has been revered since Roman times as a symbol of good fortune.

L'Occitane's Verbena Harvest, which will be available by June, comes at an auspicious time. The product will be on the shelves of all Rustan's department stores during the time when it is usually harvested. Verbena leaves are picked during the Mediterranean summer, from May to July, and quickly dried in the shade. The leaves are then crushed to obtain the natural verbena extract that gives out a fresh, lemon fragrance.

This delicate aroma is both relaxing and soothing. Verbena's light citrus scent highlights Verbena Harvest, which includes a solid perfume, eau de toilette, body lotion, shower gel, exfoliating soap with verbena leaves, foaming bath and candle.

Apart from its delicate fragrance, verbena is also gentle to most sensitive skins which makes this new body care line ideal for all skin types.

Shades of G-mik

ABS-CBN Consumer Products Inc., the licensing and merchandising arm of ABS-CBN, recently inked a licensing deal with Executive Optical Inc. for the exclusive release and distribution of the G-mik eyewear collection. "G-mik," ABS-CBN's popular Saturday teens television program, expands into a complete range of G-mik merchandise including the G-mik eyewear.

The G-mik eyewear collection captures the teen market with all-new features and youthful-accented designs in refined plastic and metallic materials. The G-mik eyewear collection comes in different trendy shapes and colors with Uv400 lenses that absorb harmful ultraviolet rays from the sun, making them suitable for outdoor activities.

G-mik eyewear is now available at all ABS-CBN Studio Store and direct sales outlets, and Executive Optical shops nationwide. G-mik socks will form part of the complete collection of G-mik products including apparel, shoes, scents and accessories.

Call ABS-CBN Consumer Products Inc. at 415-2272 local 3601/3629 or e-mail consumer_products@ abs.cbn.com.

Celebrate life's pleasures with Avon's new fragrance

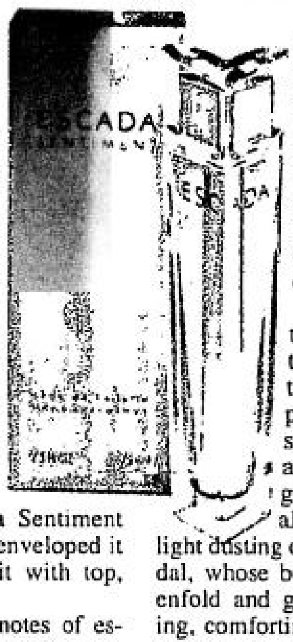
YOU are a very busy woman with meetings to attend, deadlines to beat, events to organize and projects to accomplish. And you love every minute of it.

Yet there will always be moments when you find yourself relishing the more care-free moments of your life. Those days when the only meeting you needed to attend was the late-afternoon gimmick with your friends. And the only deadline to beat could be that flight you needed to catch on your way to a fortnight-long vacation. Life seemed so simple during these times.

Capture and relive those innocent, care-free and happy days with the newest scent from Avon called Pure Blanca. With its white freesia and *ylang-ylang* over a bouquet of white peony, blanca rose and water lily, a whiff of Pure Blanca brings purity and simplicity back to life.

Pure Blanca is available through the Avon ladies nationwide or at Avon Boutiques in SM Megamall, SM Southmall, Glorietta and Ali Mall.

Youthful flavor of Escada's new scent

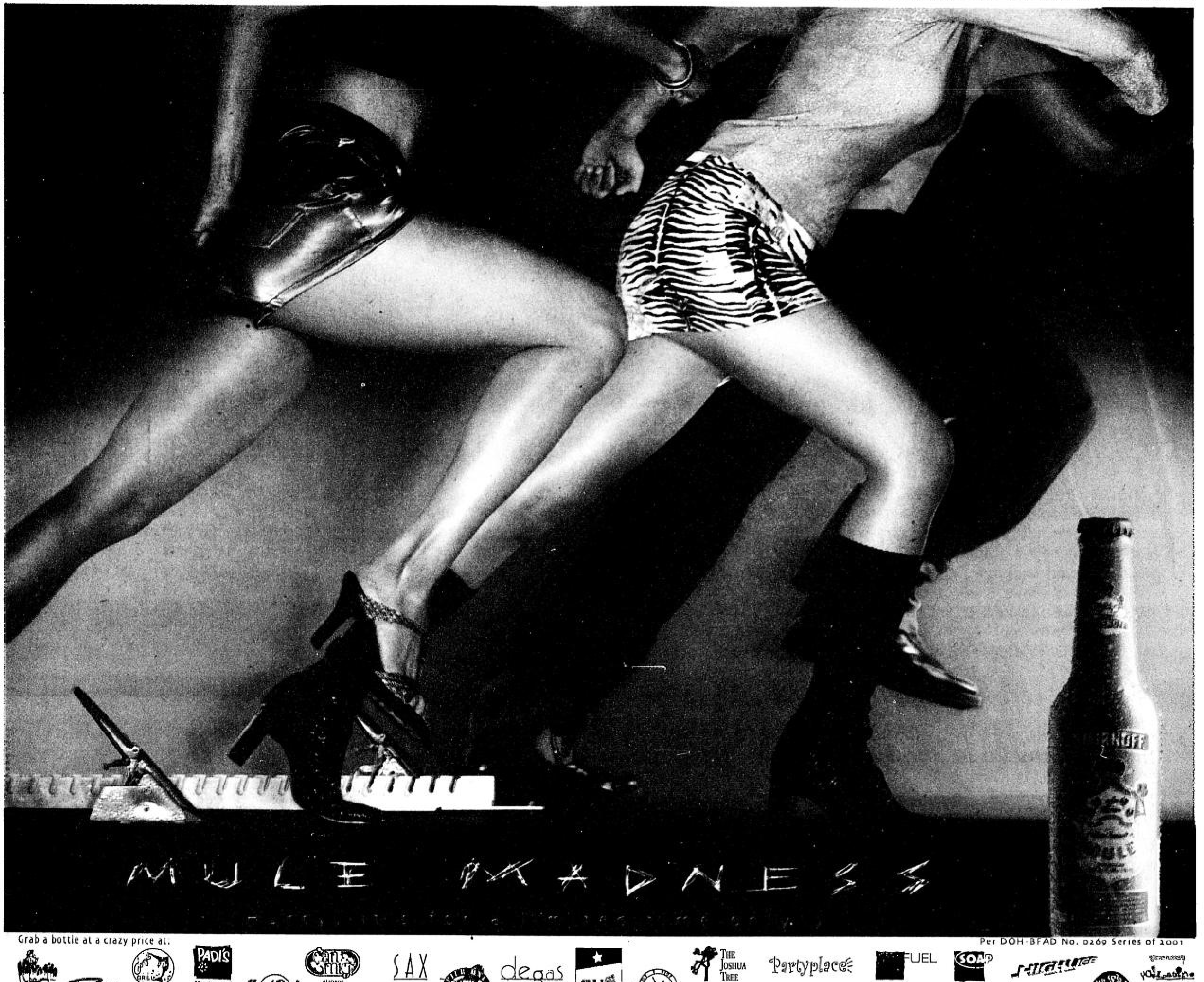


ESCADA Sentiment is a musical score full of color and fun, so bright and luxurious it melts on the skin to the beat of its notes, whether sparkling, airy or voluptuous. Escada Sentiment is youthful, enthusiastic and euphoric.

It is composed by Nathalie Gracia-Cetto (Givaudan Roure), a young woman who is not afraid to let her feelings out. Iris, an exceptionally complex, elegant, powdery flower, reigns supreme. Escada Sentiment has delicately tamed it, enveloped it softly, gently coaxing it with top, heart and base notes.

Turbulent, sparkling notes of essence of green mandarin, a shimmering floral essence of magnolia blossom, and an unusual burst of red currant, cradling the iris in a radiant red cloak, trailing its heady scent in its wake. A sprinkling of may rose, a fragile, wild rose of yesteryear which softly dusts the iris in a mist as refreshing as a dew-filled country garden at dawn.

Lustful and voluptuous notes of Indian tuberose languorously tug at your heart. White peach finally signs this sentimental pledge with a youthful flavor. Iris gracefully acknowledges allegiance to heliotrope's light dusting over the skin and to sandal, whose bewitching, milky notes enfold and gently soothe. Reassuring, comforting notes of vanilla and headspace rosewood, a naturally vanilla and amber wood, together combine to overcome any final resistance.



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The grandeur of the old in quaint Sampaloc

By Avie Gochoco-Perez
Photos by Chito Vecina
Pictorial direction by Albert Avellana

GRILL work typical of turn of the century

A JEWEL of an old house stands quietly at 231 Jhocson St. in Sampaloc, Manila, just off Legarda. Yes, this forgotten part of town probably has more treasures like this Roa house waiting to be ooohed and aaahed at, or taken apart and rebuilt, plank by plank and post by post, in a newer, posher part of town where it can relive its old glory days.

Unlike other grand ancestral homes that look magnificent already from the outside, the Roa house has to be seen from the inside to be appreciated. Its gate is a modern spread of nondescript metal. You can't even see the house from the outside, making you wonder if, well, this is a house worth writing about.

"Mama, what happened to your house?" Timmy Roa Antonio, granddaughter of Adelisa Diy Roa, asked as she plopped herself on the couch next to her *lola*.

"Why, what happened to the house?" her 88-year-old *lola* asked back, tentatively.

Timmy complained that she had just led INQUIRER photographer Chito Vecina to a bathroom upstairs which, little known to her, had been turned into a *bodega*.

"How long has it been since I was last here? Has it been five years?" Timmy thought out loud.

"No, you were here last year," a nurse aide of her *lola* reminded her.

But that is the way of ancestral homes: eventually, their original owners leave and, at best, they are left to the hopefully caring arms of caretakers. In the Roas' case, some bedrooms are occupied by some employees of the family.

Grand

Although the house isn't imposing, one can imagine that its grandness stemmed from the vastness of the land it once occupied. In the old days, the Roa property spanned the whole block and had two tennis courts to boot. "My relatives all played tennis," recalls Lola Adelisa. "They were shell courts," she stresses. It is one of the things she remembers well. She has forgotten much of what had gone on in the house in the old days.

The age of the house is anybody's guess, but it is probably older than Lola Adelisa.

The wood in the Roa house would be the envy of wood lovers today. Its *narra*-planked floors gleam from the natural ageing and polishing that have touched their surface for almost a century. The planks are set in several different directions on the floor, making the floors an interesting focal point in themselves.

In the living room floor is a round one-piece slab of *narra*, at least 4 ft across, surrounded by *narra* planks. It seemed like the Japanese flag without the red and white. Could that have been the reason the Japanese during the Second World War spared this house while burning all the rest in the neighborhood?

"They liked the house," Timmy says of the Japanese occupying force. The Diy family did not leave the house during the Japanese era. Timmy says her grandmother as a young girl, with her parents and other siblings, lived underground, pointing out a window peeping out from ground level along a side of the house. "That's also where they hid their money," she notes.

Wide 'narra' planks

In the dining room, another round one-piece *narra* greets the visitor. But this time, it makes up the top of the dining table. Wide *narra* planks—say, about a-foot-and-a-half wide—alternate with what

THE GRANDEUR/ p.E2

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The grandeur of the old in quaint Sampaloc

(From page E1)

could be either *kamagong* ,or *ipil* planks on the floor.

An entire collection of Chinese lauriat plates used to adorn the dining room walls, Timmy says, but the plates are now in Dallas, Texas, in the home of an aunt who has gone to live in the United States. They formed a part of the collections of her *lola* who was even "a panty and bra hoarder."

Shopping trips to Hong Kong were frequent in her *lola*'s younger days. Lolo Alfredo Roa, *lola*'s husband, after all, was president and later chair of the board of Borden Chemicals Philippines, the company that makes Elmer's glue. He would go to New York at least once a year with *lola* in tow.

The Roa house was host to parties galore, too. "Mama used to have a gown made by Ramon Valera every week," Timmy says. During those parties, dancing was done in the spacious living room, divided near the rear by round wooden columns supporting archways. "I wonder why there is that divider at all," says Timmy, herself a designer.

Two such columns, bulkier this time, flank each side of the main door inside the house. They are actually secret storage spaces. Pulling a knob on a hidden side reveals space enough to store umbrellas, even a broom and rags.

An antique telephone that has what looks like an ivory mouthpiece sits on a carved cylindrical metal stand. It is quite a unique piece and has its place of honor at the foyer. One can imagine what conversations of yore were struck on that antique piece.

Rich wooden stairs

Just a few steps into foyer, one is beckoned by the rich, deep brown of the wooden stairs and handrail that lead up to the second floor. Halfway up these stairs, on the left, are narrow glass windows that open out from the master bedroom. They are windows that open into the house instead of out.

Double doors front each bedroom, and each pair has an arch over it. Thin or lace curtains used to hang from behind these arches to afford the room's occupants privacy during those humid days of old. After all, doors had to be kept open to allow cross-ventilation between windows and the doors.

The bathrooms would be "Jo-Liza's love," Timmy says, referring to a popular antique store. The master bath has a *lavabo*, urinal, water closet and bathtub all done in clean lines and in peach, yes. It is rare to see bathroom fixtures of old in colors other than white today. "See this," she says as she runs her hands over the shiny chrome tubes holding up the *lavabo*. "Kohler is reviving this kind of *lavabo*."

Another bathroom's fixtures are in green but, as a visibly disappointed Timmy says, cannot be appreciated today because the entire comfort room has been reduced to a *bodega* full of *balikbayan* boxes. "But see the tiles," she points out. Some are hexagonal, some are square. The tiles, at least, form an interesting pattern on the floor and walls of the bathroom. There are, indeed, traces of a once rather ornate "canopy" of tiles over the bathtub.

"This bathroom, really, is much nicer than the one in the master's bedroom," Timmy points out, as she peeks into the green bathroom. Maybe her great grandfather who built this house—and who became a widower early—didn't feel the need

THE GRANDEUR/ p.E4

EGYPTIAN-INSPIRED balcony and doors

THE HOUSE in Sampaloc is carefully preserved.

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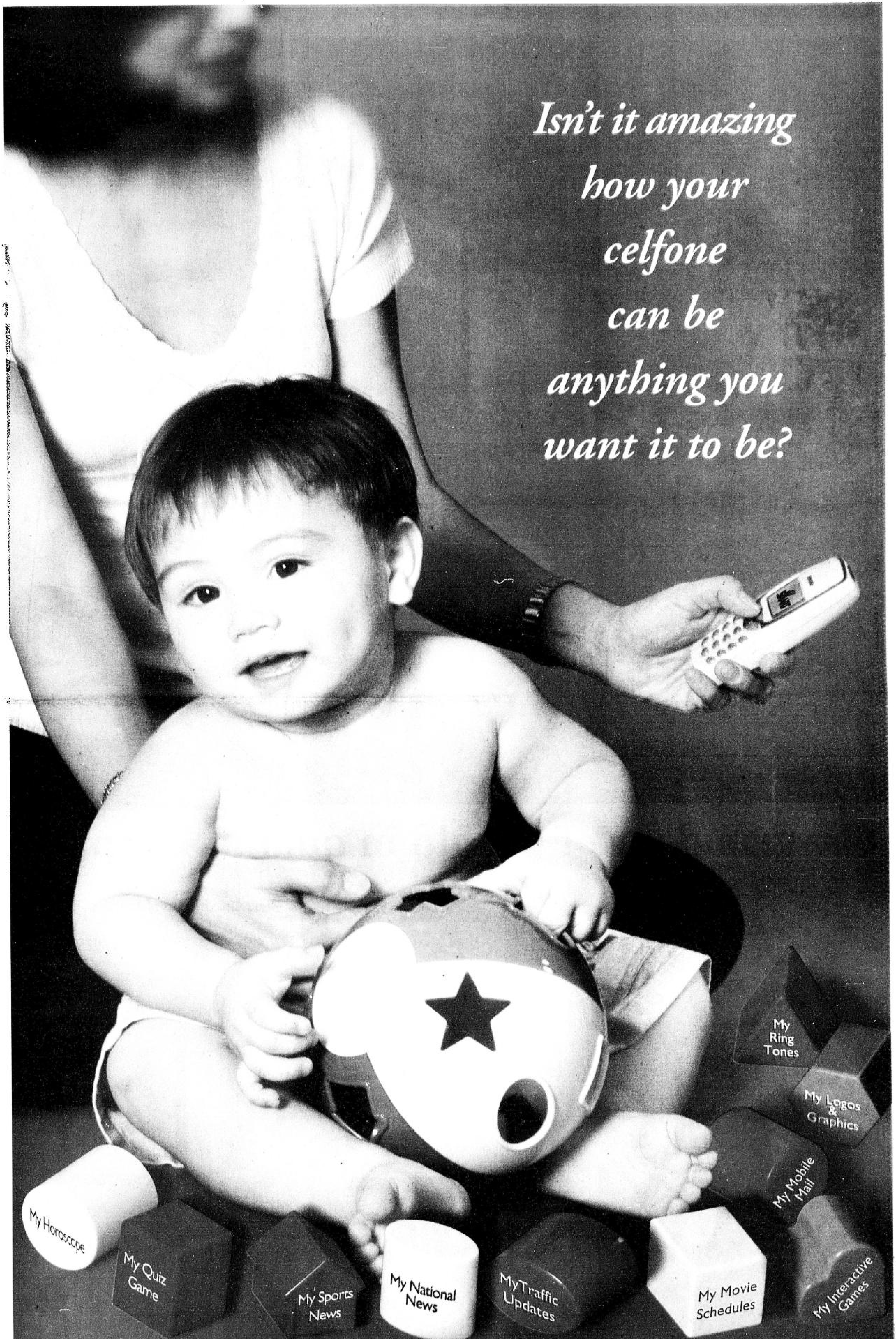
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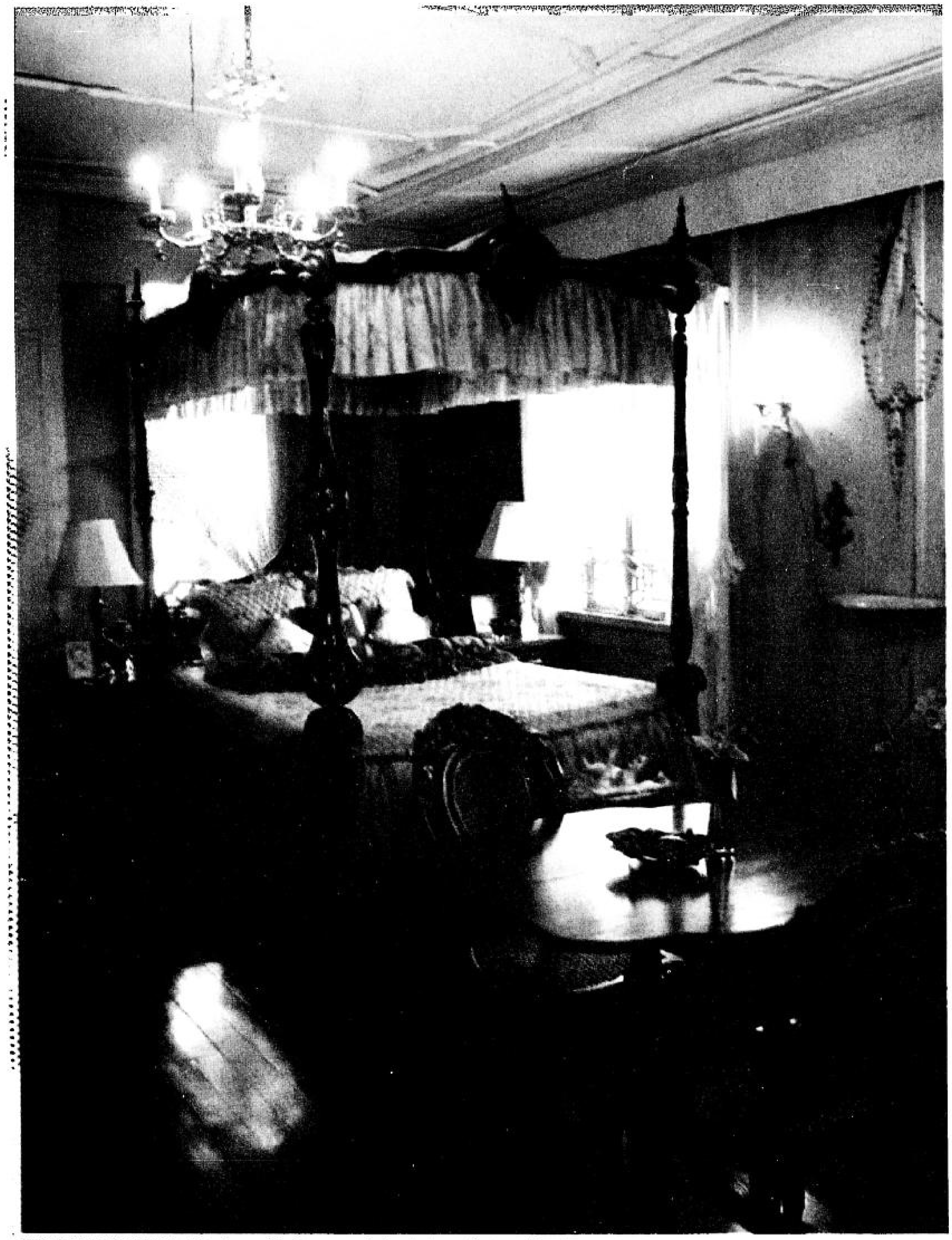
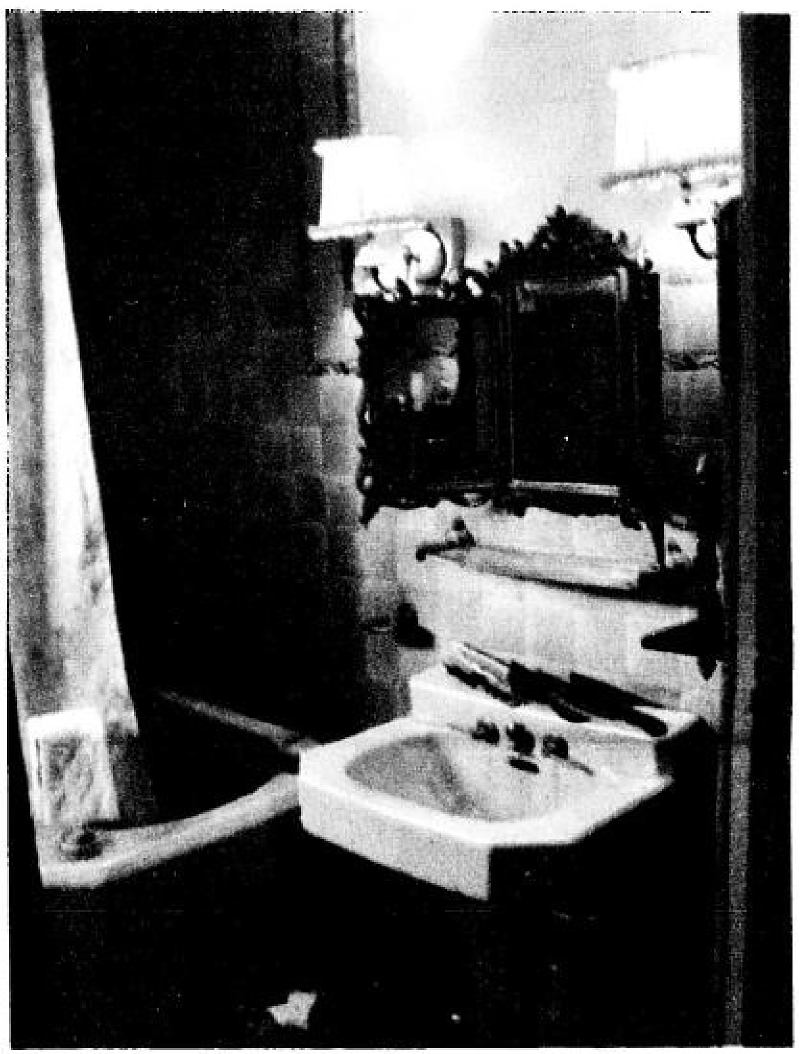


THE FOUR-POSTER bed is dressed in linens made by designer Marina Antonio.

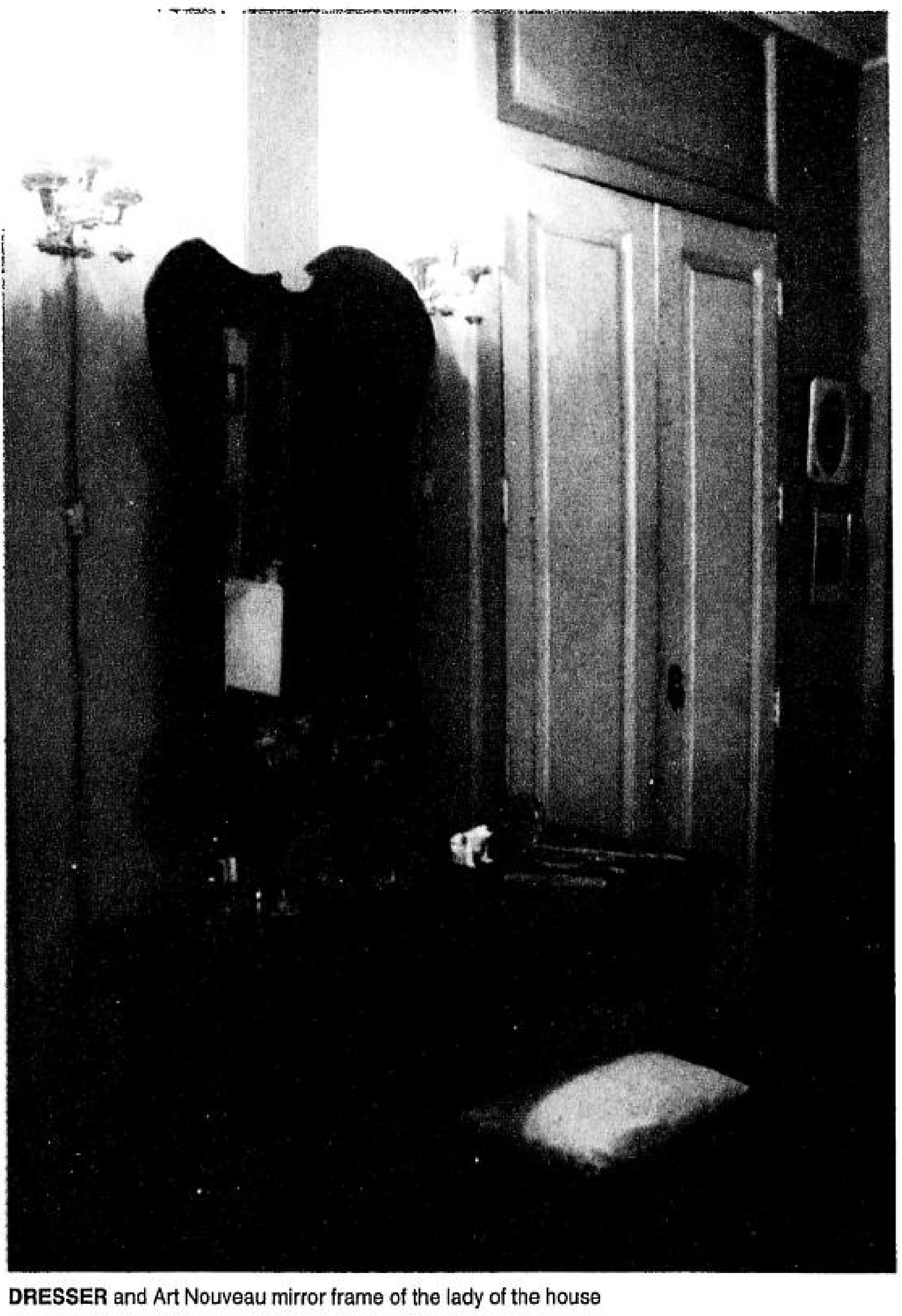
ORNATE woodwork in the headboard



BATHROOM with antique fixtures and interesting tile patterns

The grandeur of the old in quaint Sampaloc

The antediluvian Manila district yields again another architectural jewel of 'narra,' with ornate bathrooms and secret panels



DRESSER and Art Nouveau mirror frame of the lady of the house

(From page E2)

for a bathroom that was anything more than practical, she says. And that was the reason this more ornate bathroom went to another bedroom.

Secret panels

As in other old houses, the built-in cabinets have "secret" panels that, when slid aside, open into other cabinets or spaces. Timmy and her cousins, in their younger days, used to have fun discovering these secret passages.

One bedroom facing the street has two windows with small square panels of glass in colors of the rainbow: red, pink, yellow, green, blue, brown… An antique dealer once noted that colored plain glass even antedates the colored textured glass one often finds in old pieces. A transom made up of colored textured glass tops the windows.

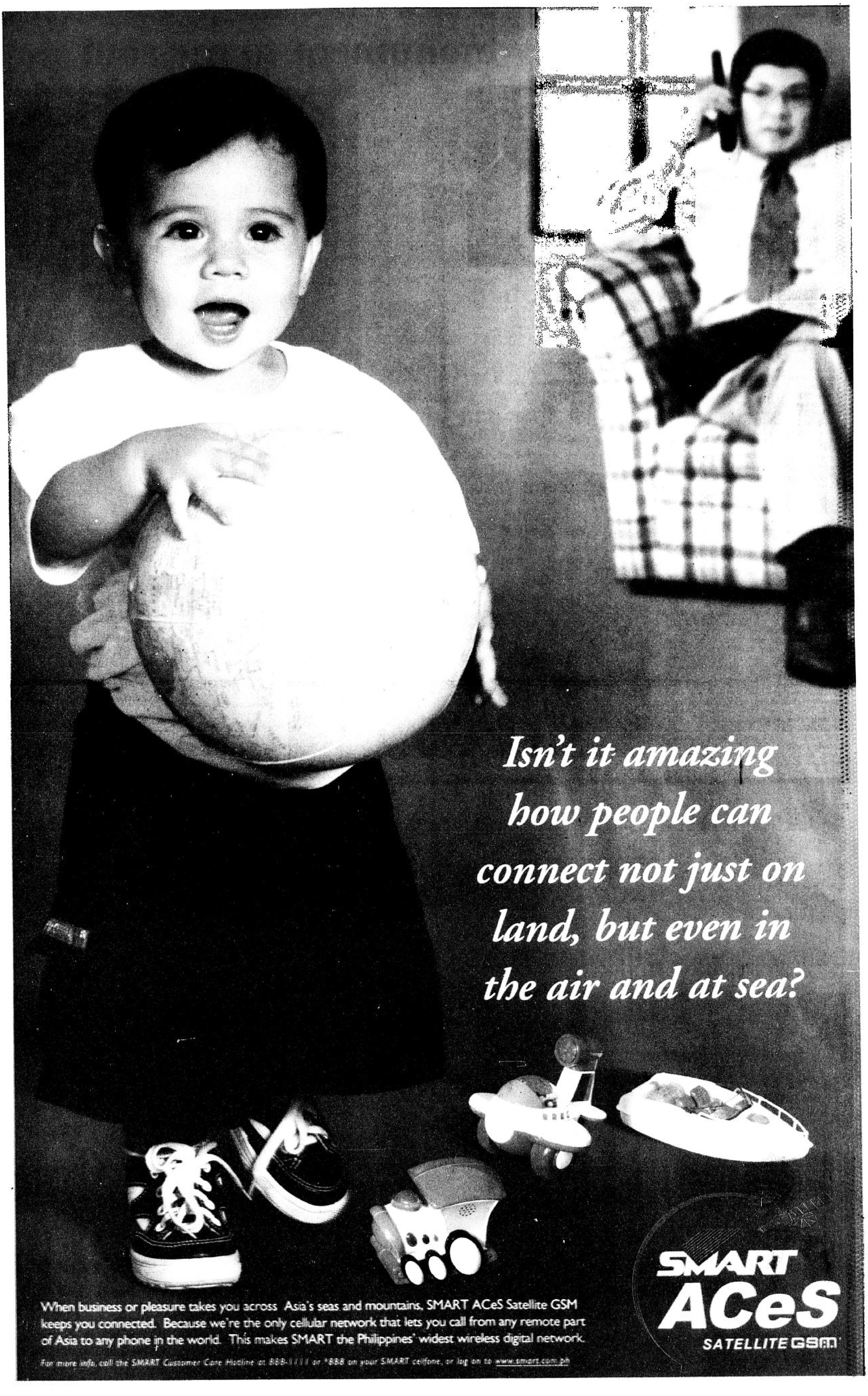
Those who like bright, clean-lined modern houses would find the Roa house much too dark and impractical for comfort. Its leaking ceiling in some parts, its rundown walls here and there and its being less than ideally located would be reason enough for some to say the house has outlived its usefulness.

Still, many would readily appreciate the solid feel of the house. "It is photogenic, too," observes

THE GRANDEUR/ p.E6

PLAY of geometry

ANTIQUE telephone set features a mouth and earpiece made of ivory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Las Vegas' glitzy monument to the soul

By Donnie C. Ramirez

I'VE been to Las Vegas a number of times, but each time I go there, nothing prepares me for the unending marvels that the amazing technicolor oasis in the heartland of the Nevada Desert offers. I was back in Vegas last fall when Emma Altura, the immediate past president of the Philippine chapter of the influential American Society of Travel Agents (Asta), invited me to join her group attending the 70th World Travel Congress held at the sprawling Las Vegas Convention Center.

The Congress was itself a marvel in scale and star value. More than 3,000 travel agents, airline and hotel executives and other travel trade suppliers, as well as top tourism officials from all over the world attended the three-day event. In between lectures, workshops and updates on world travel and tourism, they were entertained by the '70s singing group The Sensations and Vegas entertainment icon Wayne Newton, among others. But that's another story.

Right now, Vegas' dazzling showcase is Bellagio, the hotel-and-casino resort owned and operated by Mirage Resorts Inc. Opened in the autumn of 1998, Bellagio is the fulfillment of Mirage Resorts chair and CEO Stephen A. Wynn's vision to build a hotel that exemplifies absolute quality while emphasizing romance and elegance.

"Bellagio is about things that are good for the soul—fine art, gardens, flowers, fashion," Wynn writes in his journal.

It was an ambitious, almost daunting project. But as Wynn himself admits, it was a vision compelled by today's extremely competitive world leisure market that now finds the traditional concept of resort attractions old hat. It was, Wynn decided, high time to address the market's higher expectations.

There is a glut of fabulous hotels in Las Vegas. The Mirage and Treasure Island, as well as the relatively newer Paris, Mandalay Bay and Aladdin are considered among the world's most expensive structures. But the Connecticut-born Wynn, who has a degree in English literature, was determined to advance to the next level of sophisticated elegance. And so he built Bellagio, a blazing monument to glitz that simply overwhelms with its scope and presentation. Wisely, too, he aimed it primarily not at high-rollers who come to Vegas primarily for gaming, but at families who come for holidays.

Tuscan architecture

Bellagio immediately stuns and jolts the senses when one views it from the tree-lined Las Vegas Boulevard, otherwise known as "The Strip." Its elegant Tuscan architectural line cuts an imposing silhouette from across the 8-acre manmade lake fronting it. From the street, a cobblestone driveway climbs and winds gracefully, leading to a glass-and-metal port *cochere* (carport).

The main lobby is awesome but not intimidating. Gazing down from the 18-ft-high ceiling is a magnificent glass sculpture created by Dave Chihuly. Titled "Fiori di Como," it is completely made of hundreds of hand-blown glass flower petals in rich, vibrant colors. Each piece is individually lit.

Living plants and flowers are integral elements of the overall design of Bellagio. This is quite unique in a city like Las Vegas where this kind of visual stimulation is not considered mainstream. Across the lobby is the Conservatory. With a 50-ft-high glass ceiling supported by sculpted green metal beams set in floral patterns, the Conservatory is a virtual flower fantasyland. David Hersey, seven-time Tony Awardee for his lighting designs for "Cats," "Evita," "Les Miz," "Miss Saigon" and other Broadway musicals, created special lightings for each plant, tree and flower in the garden. The floral setting is changed entirely for each season. At the time of my visit, there were orange, yellow, brown and gold to match the fall foliage.

MAGNIFICENT facade

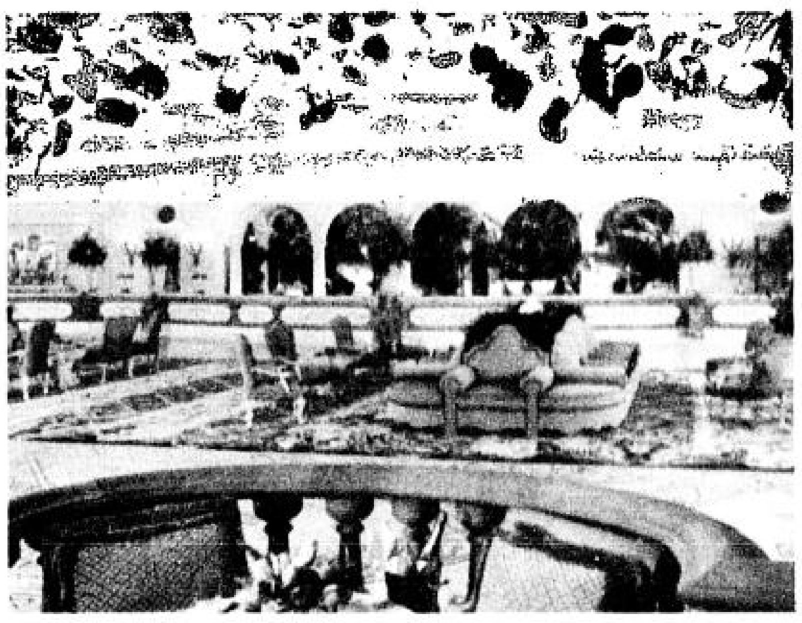
Gallery of Fine Art

"Great artworks, regardless of chronology, share the most remarkable power to move us," says Wynn. "I am provoked by a portrait by Picasso or Van Gogh, delighted by the dancing colors of Matisse and transported by a scene in Montmarte painted by Renoir. There is a palpable energy that radiates from their works."

Bellagio's Gallery of Fine Art is therefore personally dear to Wynn's heart. The priceless collection includes original works of Cezanne, Degas, Gaugin, Miro, Rembrandt and contemporary artists Willem de Kooning, Francoise Gilot, Roy Lichtenstein and Robert de Niro Sr. Gallery hours are from 10 a.m.-10 p.m. daily.

The six courtyard settings that comprise the pool area evoke the romance of the Old World and the classic charm of a Mediterranean villa. Each has a spa, cabanas, open-air café and a pool with a hand-carved stone fountain in its center. Each area is shaded by Italian cypresses, olive trees and citrus plants and bordered by symmetrical parterre gardens banded by hedges.

Bellagio stuns and jolts. It is not only a hotel, but a botanical showcase, a show place, a restaurant row, and even a gallery of works by 20th-century masters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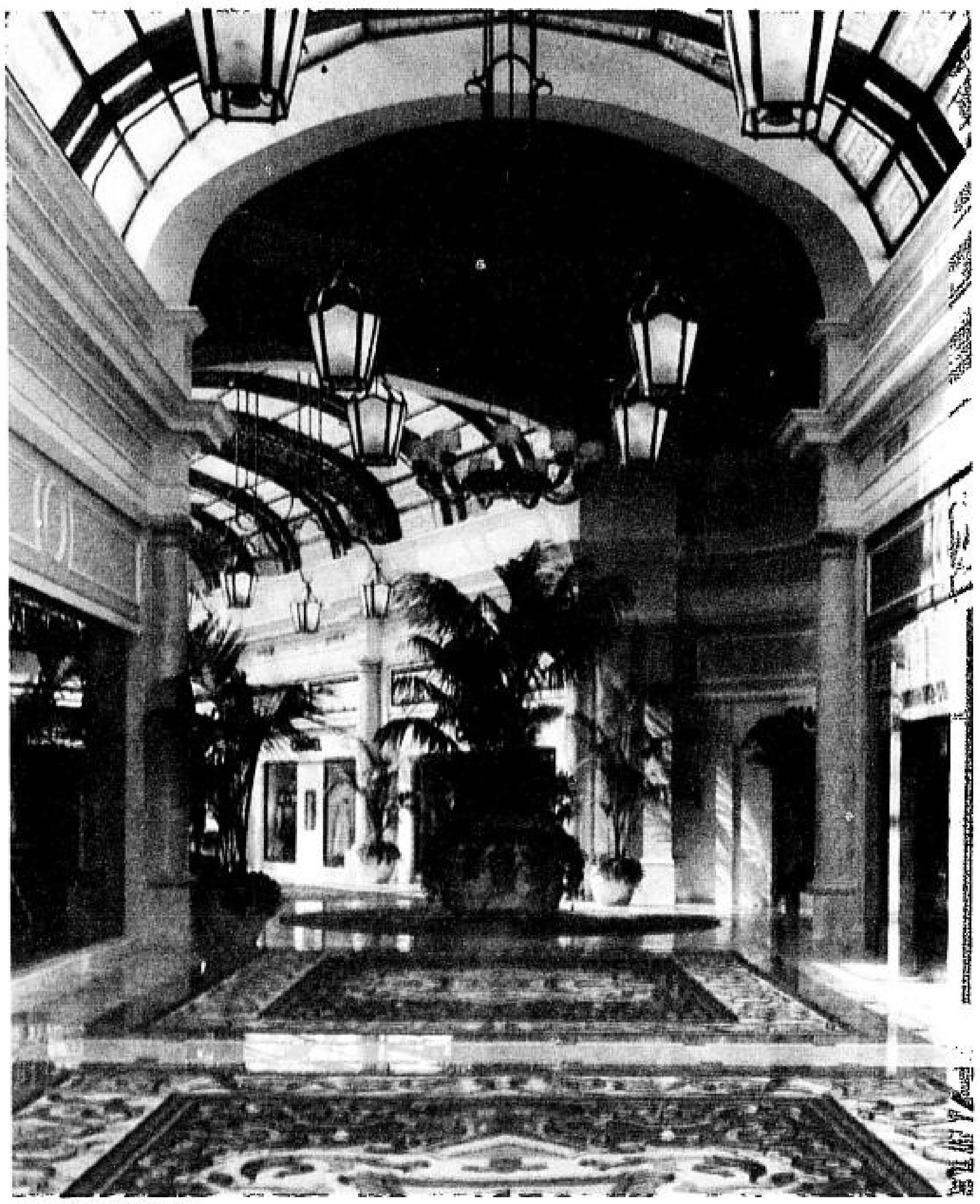

MAJESTIC lobby

ART gallery

The 'O' Theater

Entertainment at Bellagio is as spectacular as the hotel itself. For the main playbill, Wynn contracted the world-acclaimed Cirque de Soleil of Montreal, Canada to create a production specially for its main theater, which was designed in the style of the famous Paris Opera House

The show, simply titled "O," is a spellbinding production that fuses circus acts, mime, ballet, synchronized swimming and, most of all, water. Hailed as the hottest ticket in Vegas, the magical theatrical experience is worth its stiff admission price of $150.

Easy, informal meal to gourmet dining

The world's best restaurants are represented in Bellagio, serving a gamut of dishes from pastries and informal meals to haute cuisine. There are no less than seven James Beard award-winning chefs in the hotel, the most number ever assembled under one roof.

Marc Poidevin, formerly chef de cuisine at New York's four-star Le Cirque, presents classic Le Cirque cuisine to Bellagio's guests while pastry chef Patrice Caillot makes his innovative dessert creations at Osterio del Circo. Le Cirque at Bellagio was designed by the world-renowned Adam Tihany, using playful colors and geometric shapes that blend with the view of Bellagio's breathtaking lake outside.

Others represented are Olives, the acclaimed Boston restaurant owned by Todd English; San Francisco's celebrated seafood restaurant Aqua with chef Mark Lo Russo; Prime, award-winning restaurateur Jean-Georges Vongerichten and executive chef Kerry Simon's steakhouse designed by Michael DeSantis; chef Philip Lo's Jasmine, the contemporary gourmet Chinese restaurant flanked on three sides by spectacular garden and lake views; Shintaro, chef Naoki Sakamoto's domain which boasts of natural stone flooring and a unique sushi bar that seems to float on blocks of ice; Noodles, which serves dimsums and authentic regional noodle dishes from Thailand, China, Japan and Vietnam; Sam's American, a free-formed restaurant with an open kitchen designed by Chicago's Jordan Mozer and managed by Sam DeMarco, owner of the popular New York City First Restaurant; and the 24-hour Café Bellagio with turn-of-the-century arched windows that look out to the pool and garden area.

Last but not the least is the Picasso, the hotel's flagship restaurant named after Pablo Picasso, probably the greatest painter of the 20th century. With distinct Mediterranean inspiration, Picasso is a rough-hewn restaurant with a beam and brick ceiling and gesso-covered burlap walls. Claude Picasso, Pablo's son, designed the carpet and the furniture, while some of the great master's paintings and signature ceramics, tiles and sculptures adorn the walls. Helming the kitchen is the renowned Spanish chef Julian Serrano.

Guest rooms

Bellagio's suites and deluxe guest rooms have sweeping vistas of the resort's lake and the surrounding mountains and skyline of Las Vegas. Each is tastefully furnished with custom European-style furniture and art pieces, as well as modern-day conveniences. But the centerpiece is the bathroom. Made entirely of Italian marble, it has separate shower and soaking tub and luxurious amenities that are thoughtfully selected to pamper the guests.

Like its vaunted dining outlets, Bellagio has brought together under its roof the most dazzling and exclusive shop and boutiques in the world. At Via Bellagio, the hotel's chic shopping promenade, guests can stroll and browse through the collections of Chanel, Moschino, Prada, Armani, Hermes, Gucci, Tiffany & Co., and the rare and extraordinary jewelry of Fred Leighton.

Collaborative work

Bellagio is a singular vision that became a reality because of collaborative work. Dozens of famous creative people have made their cameo contributions, doing a section of the lobby, creating the lighting system for a floral cluster in the Conservatory, landscaping a courtyard in the pool area. And each component becomes a conversation piece. But, as Wynn sums it up so aptly, "The most wonderful thing about Bellagio is not its individual elements but the way they come together and give an experience that unfolds in such a lovely way." Beautiful Bellagio, indeed.

THE HOUSE survives time because of the use of *narra.*

The grandeur of the old in quaint Sampaloc

(From page E4)

art director Albert Avellana. Also, how can anyone put a price on history, a part of which this house stands for?

"*Maayos ba ang hardin*?" Lola Adelisa asks her aide. It is just one of the questions she now asks her people about the house, being unable to walk out to the garden and see for herself.

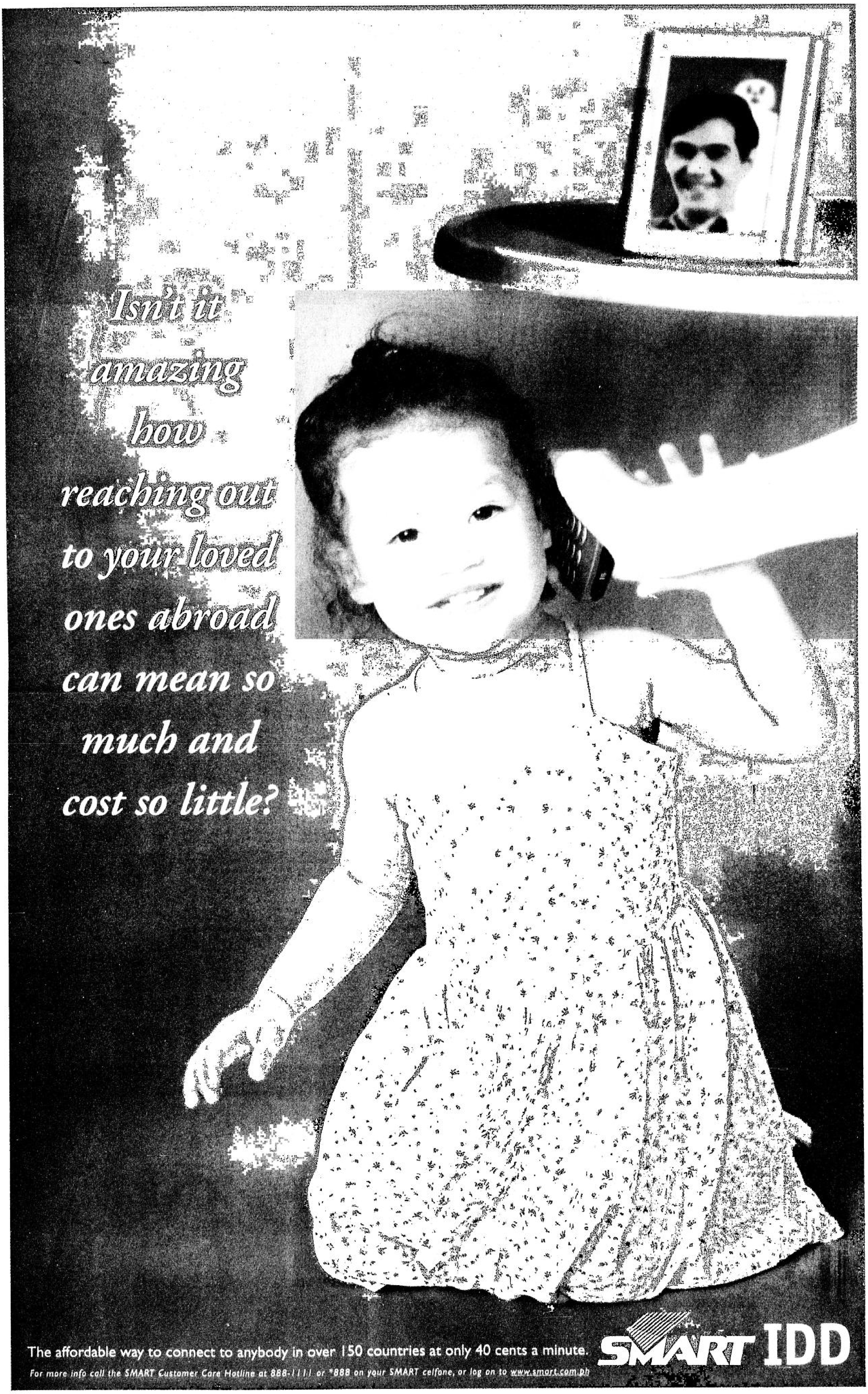
No, she will never sell this house, she insists. It is a house, after all, that she won as her share of the family inheritance in a *bunutan* held for the purpose. Lola's father, Alfredo, a Chinese and a successful pediatrician, built this house.

But *lola* now lives elsewhere. She is comfortable in her son's house in Ayala, Alabang where she has a huge bedroom to herself. She must be watched closely, after all, having had a pacemaker installed two years ago.

But even in Alabang, *lola* still thinks of the Sampaloc house, the fun there, her childhood. As they say, home is where the heart is.

COLORED windowpane with geometric grill work

THE GREEN and red flooring with specks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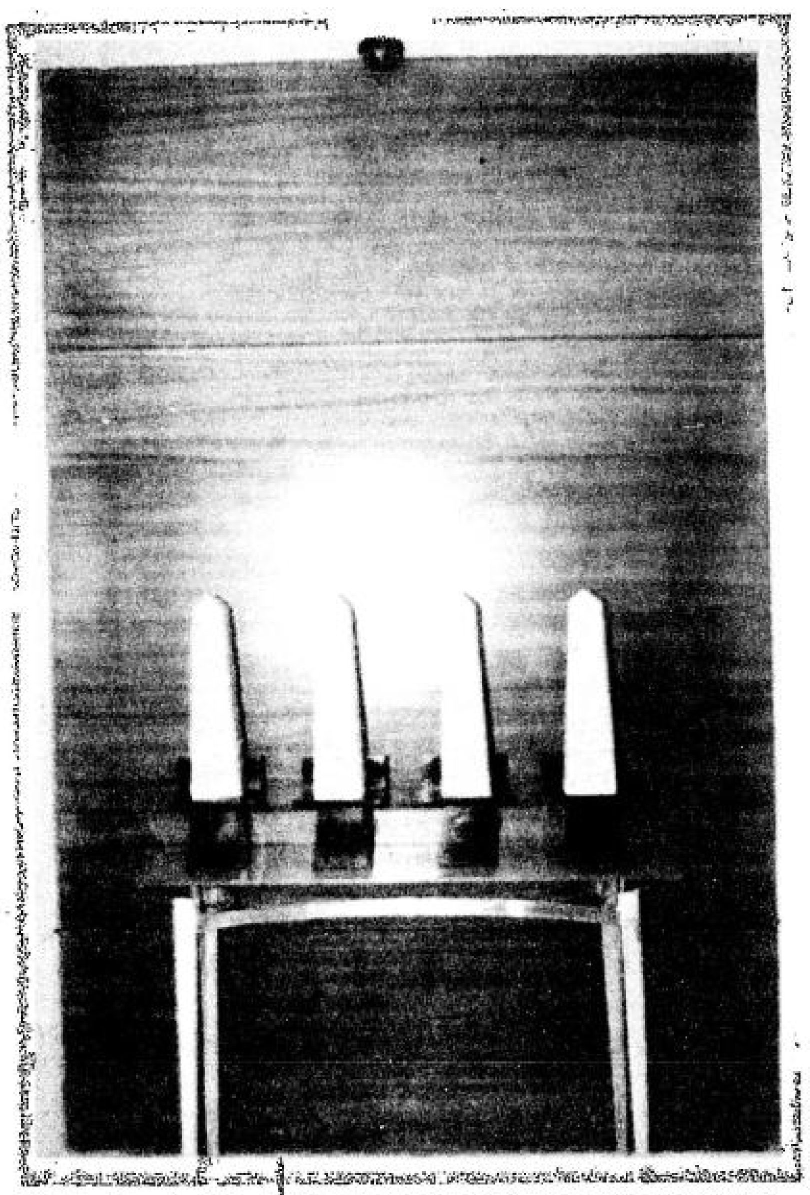
THE LIVING room of this two-bedroom suite is done in black and gray, the hotel's prevalent color scheme. Black wood veneer backdrops make dramatic contrast to white walls. The high contrast defines the living room area. The mirror highlights the space as an eye-focusing technique.

DESPITE the minimalist touch, the ceiling has moldings. Space is economized by the use of a buffet table that doubles as a console. Mirror with silver leaf in the dining room adds a feeling of luxury. The round glass-topped dining table adds to a clear, transparent look.

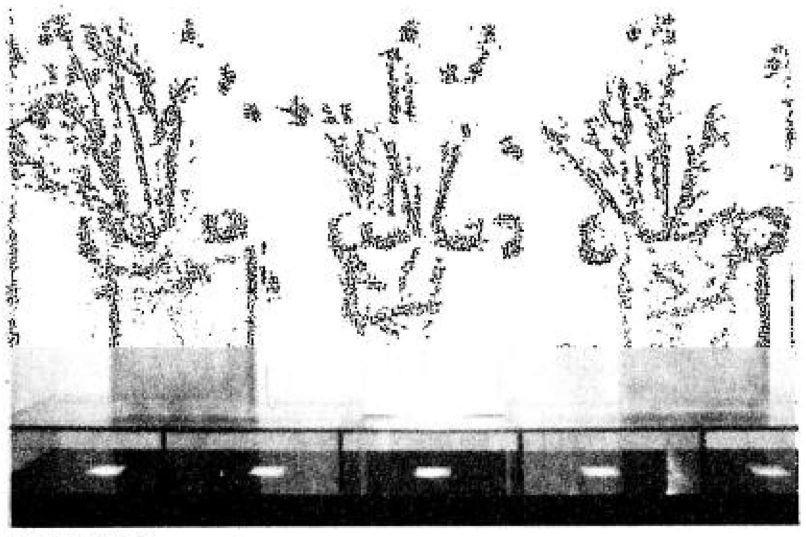
It's black, gray and minimalistic in this hotel

By Doris G. Nuyda
Photos by Bobot Meru



SOLE décor in this starkly simple upper floor corridor is a set of tabletop obelisks made of dried grass stalks.

PHOTOS BY ROMY HOMILLADA



PLANTERS

JOINING the crop of boutique hotels rising in Metro Manila is the Astoria Plaza in Ortigas, Pasig City. Like other hotels of its kind, the Astoria caters to business people who find the location, between Makati and Quezon City, ideal for reaching contacts.

But to expect it to be in a perpetual state of flux because of its business target is belied from the time one enters its lobby. There is a simplicity, even serenity, a lack of fussiness about the place, and one discovers that this impression is duplicated all over the hotel's 35 floors.

What its interior designers aimed to achieve from the outset, and seem to have succeeded quite laudably, was a minimalist approach. To dispel the busy, noisy confusion of Manila's streets, the designers sought to assure the guest that here in these interiors, he can expect to have a clear mind and refreshed body, ready to meet whatever the day has in store for him.

The first step toward this end is uncluttered space. The lobby sets the tone for this by its linear aspects—no curlicues or frothy décor. The only things that break the black and gray color scheme are the planters that hold green grass and wispy twigs, placed artfully on corners and high shelves, and a curving stairway leading to the mezzanine. The stairs have stainless steel handrails lined at the way to the top with a panel of frosted glass. The reception counter has a similar panel covering its wood front.

The clean-cut lines of the hotel interiors are evident even on the reception lobby floor. It sports two types of granite, described as black and diamond white. The upper floor lobbies have the same stark look, one of which is particularly striking with its display of unique obelisks made of dried grass stalks.

Living room

On the 22nd floor, we visit a two-bedroom suite. The living room takes on the basic black and gray scheme, offset by plain white walls and floors.

The focal points of this living area are the wood backdrops, painted black, set up on both sides of the room. One side holds shelves for décor and a TV set; the other side, a round mirror, its shape meant to diffuse the dominant linear look. On side tables are lamps with chrome bases. Beside one backdrop is a wall-sized frame of a modern print. Delineating the living area is a side desk that holds the telephone and stationery paraphernalia.

Bedrooms

It is from this point that one enters the bedrooms. The master bedroom is tucked in the farthest end. Next to it is the second bedroom with two beds. Both rooms have their own baths. As in the other living areas in the suite, the furnishings here carry the same black and gray color scheme.

"NO-DESIGN" design concept feature light tables and contrasting color scheme.

Dining room

Nowhere does the absence of clutter seem more welcome than in the dining room where one can expect to dine through several courses with ease and grace. A round glass-topped table for four stands at the center, set with black and white dinner appointments. While three of the walls are painted plain white, the fourth is paneled in wood with a built-in console table to hold serving dishes.

There is a kitchenette next to this area that contains everything that a home kitchen needs except a stove. We are told, however, that provision for this can be made on a case-to-case basis.

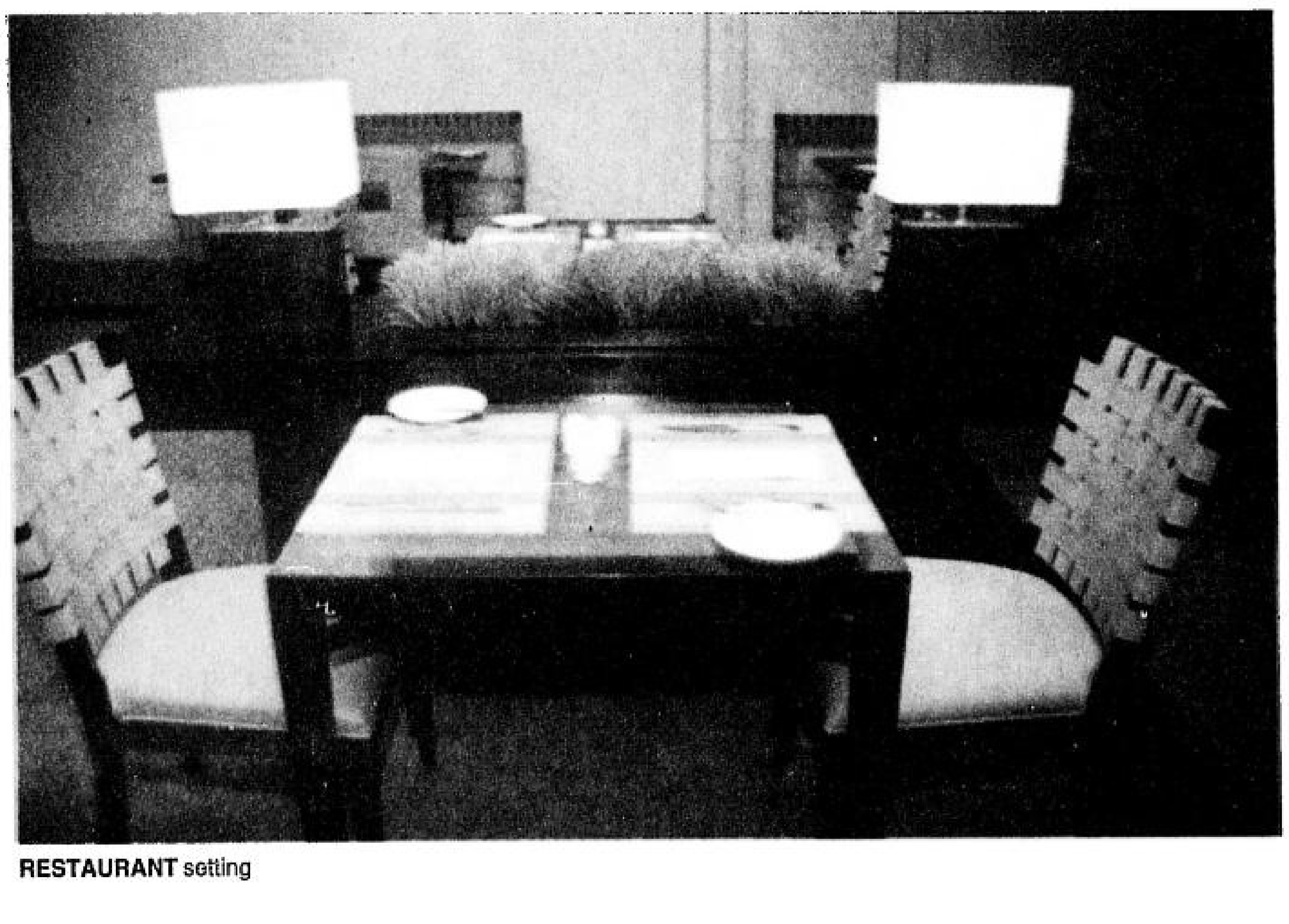
Adopting a minimalist look was the decision of the hotel's design team—Charles Sanchez, architect in charge of interior architecture; Terry Gavino, in charge of fleshing out the architectural details, and Ivy Almario, in charge of the interior design concept. Working closely with Ivy is her sister Cynthia.

Providing additional information on hotel operations were Mary Ann S. Reyes, general manager, and Odette E. Aguilar, director of sales. Hotel owner is Cathay Land.

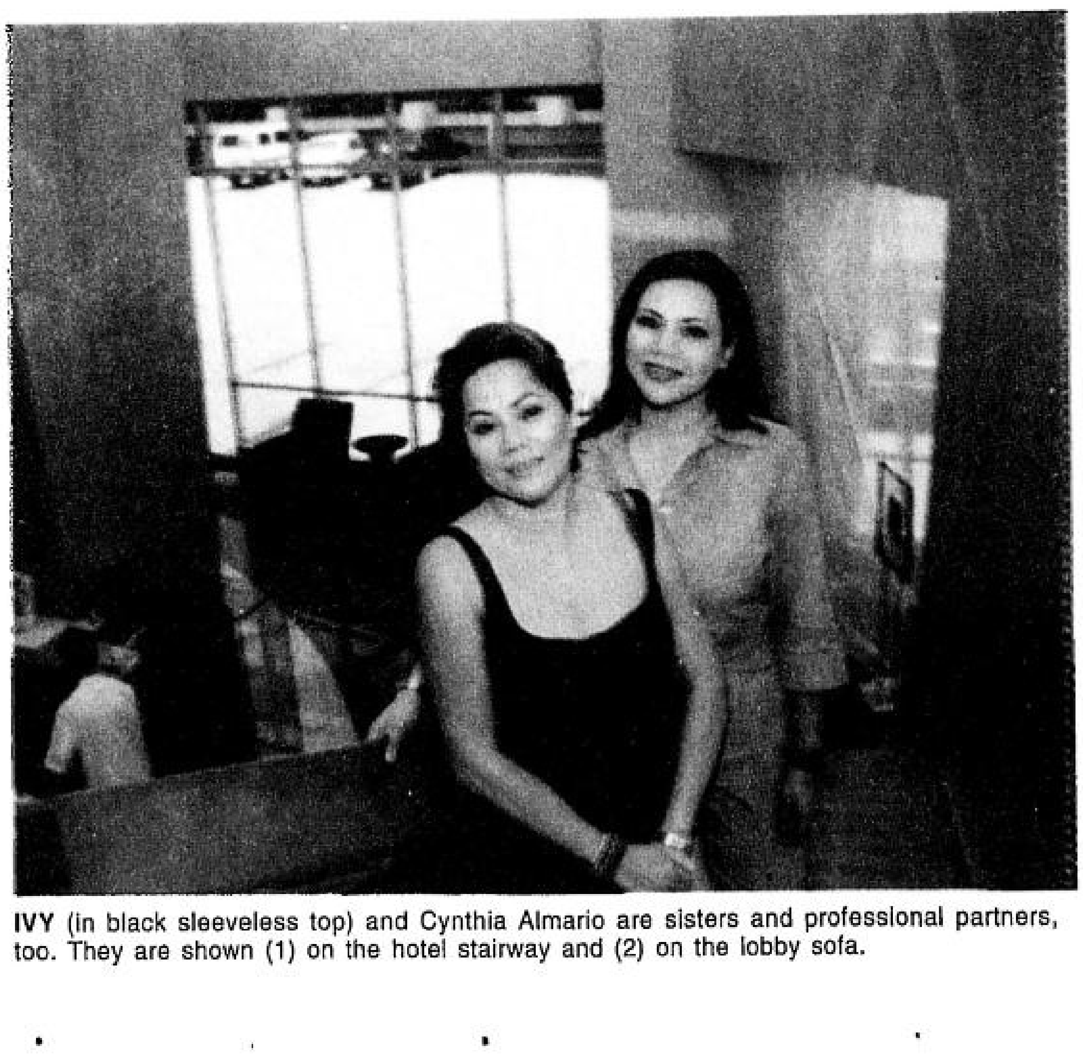
The team says there are some finishing touches that still need to be done in this 3-month-old hotel—the swimming pool that will be built on the third floor, and the coffee shop, the Astoria Café, undergoing renovation on the first floor. Meanwhile, the function rooms on the mezzanine have been transformed into a temporary restaurant, which has taken in a brand-new chef who has lined up a brand-new menu based on dishes known as "Oriental fusion." The café promises to be a "must" for diners.

Almario sisters

Sisters Ivy and Cynthia Almario are unique in the design profession in that they work as a team, usually with each taking up a different aspect of the work. There is a third sister in the team, Chona, who is currently abroad. The sisters are married with children—Ivy is Guillermo Nieva, Cynthia is Moise Ouaknine, and Chona is Romeo Aquino. Their home and professional lives meld well, they say, and enable them to work better with families and their interior design needs.



RESTAURANT setting



IVY (in black sleeveless top) and Cynthia Almario are sisters and professional partners, too. They are shown (1) on the hotel stairway and (2) on the lobby sofa.

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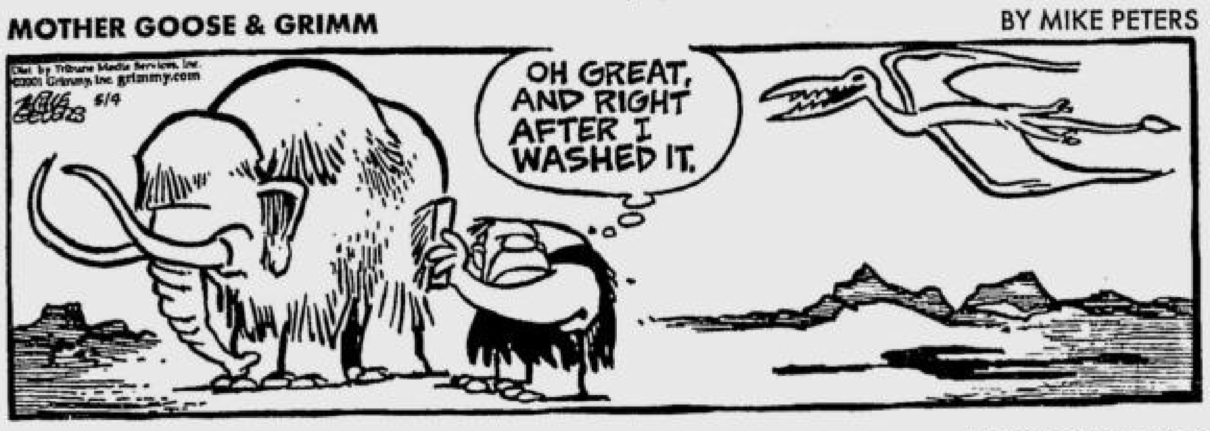
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


OH GREAT, AND RIGHT AFTER I WASHED IT.
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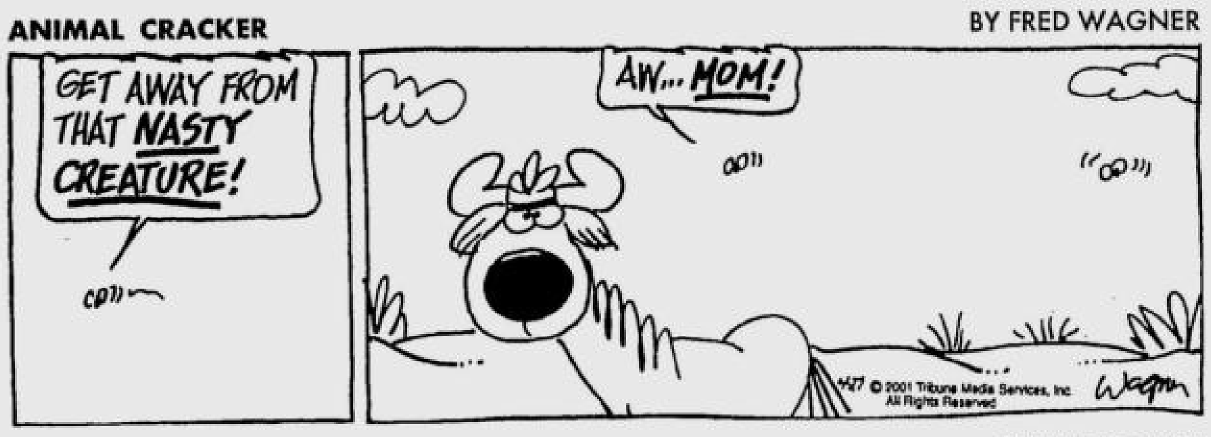
5/4

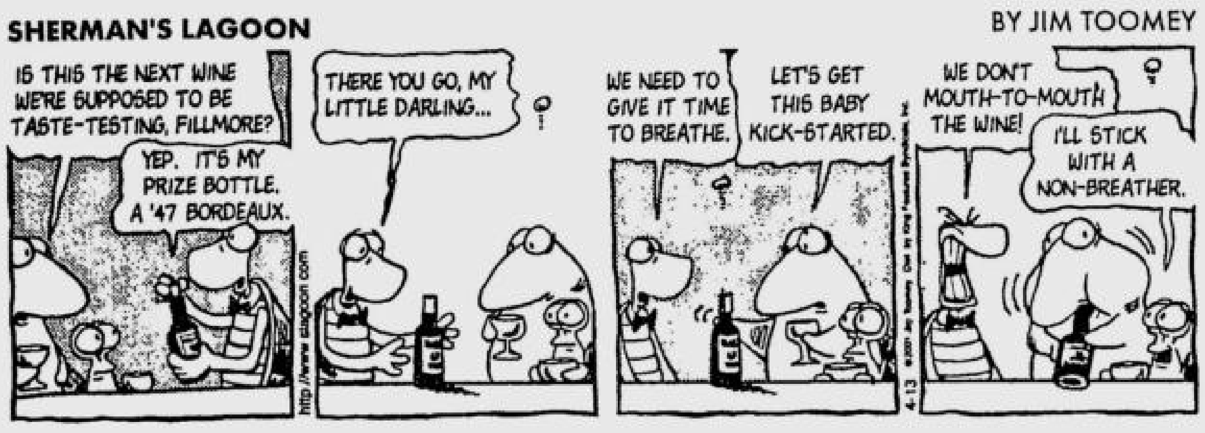
ANIMAL CRACKER

BY FRED WAGNER


GET AWAY FROM THAT NASTY CREATURE!
AW... MOM!
4/17 © 2001 Tribune Media Services, Inc All Rights Reserved
Wagner

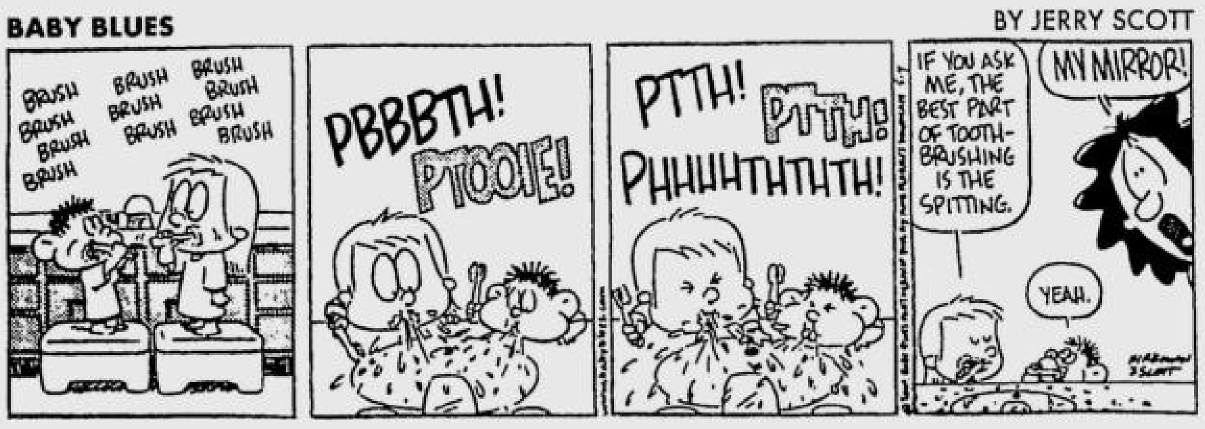
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


IS THIS THE NEXT WINE WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BE TASTE-TESTING, FILLMORE?
YEP. IT'S MY PRIZE BOTTLE. A '47 BORDEAUX.
THERE YOU GO, MY LITTLE DARLING...
WE NEED TO GIVE IT TIME TO BREATHE.
LET'S GET THIS BABY KICK-STARTED.
WE DON'T MOUTH-TO-MOUTH THE WINE!
I'LL STICK WITH A NON-BREATHER.
http://www.slagoon.com
4-13

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


BRUSH BRUSH BRUSH BRUSH BRUSH BRUSH BRUSH BRUSH BRUSH BRUSH BRUSH
PBBBTH! PTOOIE!
PTTH! PTTTH! PHHHHTHTHTH!
IF YOU ASK ME, THE BEST PART OF TOOTH-BRUSHING IS THE SPITTING.
MY MIRROR!
YEAH.
KIRKMAN SCOTT

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Andy Griffith, Marilyn Monroe, Ron Wood, Morgan Freeman, Pat Boone, Jonathan Pryce, Martin Brundle, Alanis Morissette

Happy Birthday: If you procrastinate, you will fall short of your goals. You must trust in yourself to attain the sort of advancements that you've been planning. Be organized and don't leave anything to chance. You can gain control if you have your priorities straight and reach for the stars. Your numbers: 8, 12, 15, 22, 26, 37

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Romance is evident. Partnerships will make you happy. Your outgoing nature will contribute to your popularity. You can help others and receive rewards for your good actions.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Underhandedness at work is probable. Gossip may be interesting, but you're wise to keep your nose out of it. Intimacy with someone at work will cause discord as well as rumors.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Romantic infatuations will take you by surprise. You are in for an enjoyable time if you join groups that spark your intellectual interests. Your need to help others will be admired.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Your mood swings will confuse your partner. It's a good idea to retreat until you know your intentions and what you want to say. Don't lead someone on if you no longer feel the same.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You will want to expand your knowledge, your awareness and your interests. Don't take on too much, or nothing will be accomplished. You can establish long-lasting friendships.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Love will develop through connections made at work. If you mix business with pleasure, you'll be surprised how much you can find out about others.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Don't get involved in other people's affairs. You will find yourself in deeper than you want to be. You're better off meeting new people. A romantic connection can be made.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Sudden changes in your home will lead to a changed lifestyle. Don't be afraid to start something new. You have a lot of catching up to do.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't trust someone who is pushing a dubious fast-cash deal. You may be tempted to take a risk, but would live to regret it. You have an unrealistic view of your financial position.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Someone at work will pursue you. Tread carefully: This connection is likely to lead to the unemployment line. The temptation may be great, but the outcome won' be worth it.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You will benefit through travel experiences you have. Take a close look at the opportunities offered in other parts of the world. A move may not be such a bad idea.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Past partners may try to find their way back into your life. Check them out thoroughly. They probably haven't changed. If you waste your time on them, you may miss out on an ideal matchup.

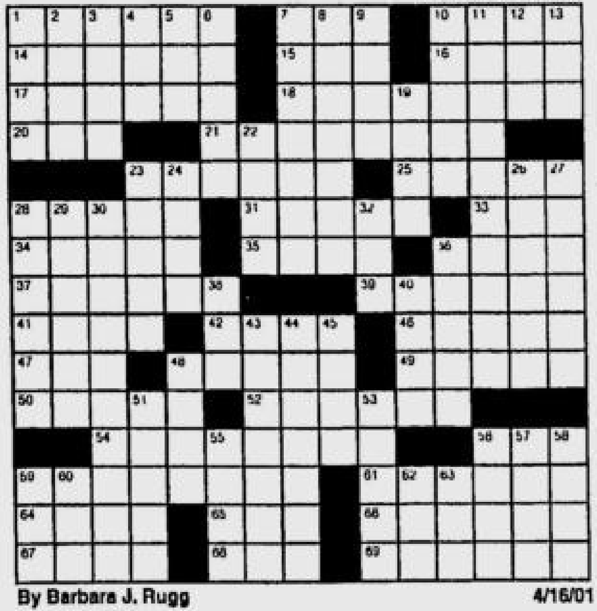
Birthday Baby: You move with such grace and ease. You are also intelligent and curious, with the ability to charm anyone. You know how to get others to do what you want. You're articulate and into everything.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com

ACROSS
1 First string
7 Maj. Barbara's creator
10 Junk e-mail
14 __ May Alcott
15 In the groove
16 Proceed slowly but surely
17 Henner of "Taxi"
18 First letters
20 Lawyer: abbr.
21 Dancer Vaslav
23 Leg parts
25 Legendary fabler
28 Point a finger
31 Story
33 Bikini part
34 Poet
35 Former Atlanta arena
36 Ogler
37 Comparable thing
39 Jacket flaps
41 Devil's domain
42 Diva Moffo
46 Break off
47 Sturdy cup
48 Slobber
49 Paris moms
50 Sudden outpouring
52 Wheel radii
54 Aura
56 Chinese revolutionary
59 Seeker
61 An equal amount
64 Choir voice
65 Double curve
66 Subtle gradation
67 Leaves
68 Giant great
69 Last string

DOWN
1 Soprano Gluck
2 Punt or junk
3 Brusque
4 502
5 Emigrant's subj.
6 Local wildlife
7 Second string
8 Blessing
9 Plunging descent
10 Rail nail
11 Imitates music
12 "You've Got Mail" provider: abbr.
13 AMA members
19 Russian ruler
22 Scuttlebutt
23 Get a noseful
24 Sub
26 You'd better!
27 Diagrams, as a sentence
28 "Tragic Overture" composer
29 Batting order
30 Unite
32 Texas tea
36 Dueling swords
38 Needle-nosed fish
40 Highest point
43 Queen of the busybodies
44 Third string
45 Baseball family name
48 Future fam. member
51 Amateurs
53 Reeves of "My Own Private Idaho"
55 Cosby family member
56 Tailless feline
57 Noun-forming suffix
58 Hear ye!
59 Droop
60 "All over the World" grp.
62 Multipurpose car: abbr.
63 Animal gullet



By Barbara J. Rugg
Santa Fe, NM

4/16/01

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

P	U	L	S	A	R	■	H	E	L	P	L	E	S	S
O	P	A	Q	U	E	■	E	V	A	L	U	A	T	E
S	T	R	U	N	G	■	P	E	T	E	R	S	O	N
T	O	D	A	T	E	■	B	R	E	A	K	E	R	S
■	■	■	W	I	N	O	U	T	■	■	■	O	F	E
S	O	C	K	E	T	W	R	E	N	C	H	■	■	■
E	A	R	■	■	■	E	N	D	U	R	A	N	C	E
C	H	I	E	F	S	■	■	■	T	Y	L	E	R	S
S	U	B	L	E	A	S	E	D	■	■	■	M	O	P
■	■	■	S	E	T	T	L	I	N	G	D	O	W	N
A	R	E	■	■	■	R	E	D	E	Y	E	■	■	■
B	A	R	B	A	R	I	C	■	C	R	I	S	E	S
O	V	E	R	C	O	A	T	■	T	A	C	K	L	E
D	E	C	I	M	A	T	E	■	A	T	E	A	S	E
E	S	T	E	E	M	E	D	■	R	E	S	T	E	D

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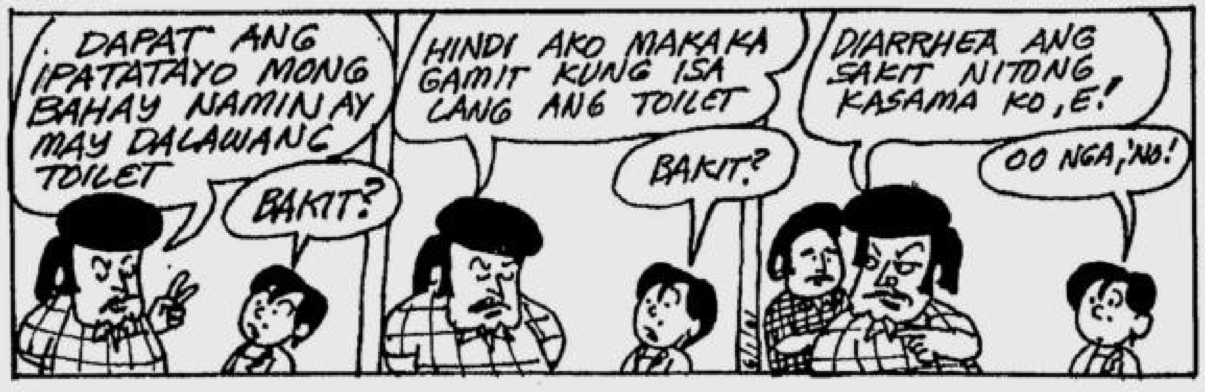
4/16/01

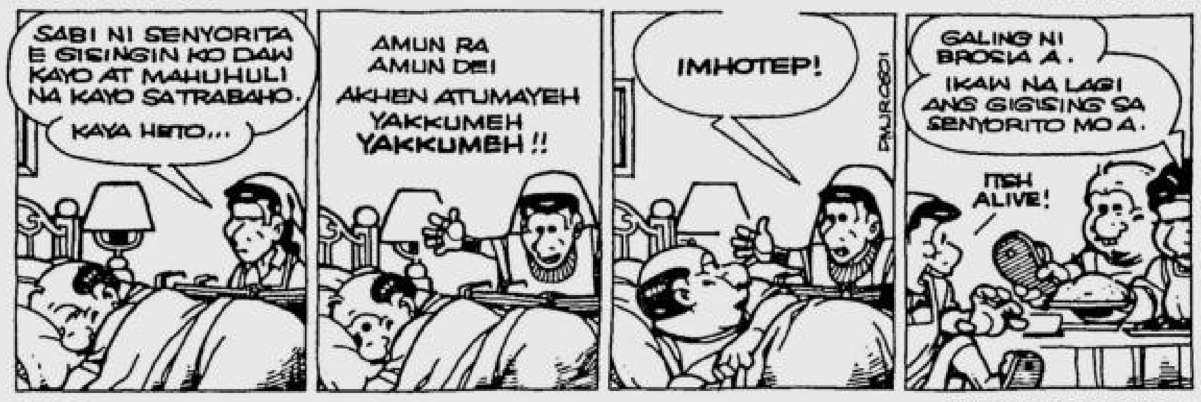
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


DAPAT ANG IPATATAYO MONG BAHAY NAMIN AY MAY DALAWANG TOILET
BAKIT?
HINDI AKO MAKAKA GAMIT KUNG ISA LANG ANG TOILET
BAKIT?
DIARRHEA ANG SAKIT NITONG KASAMA KO, E!
OO NGA, 'NO!

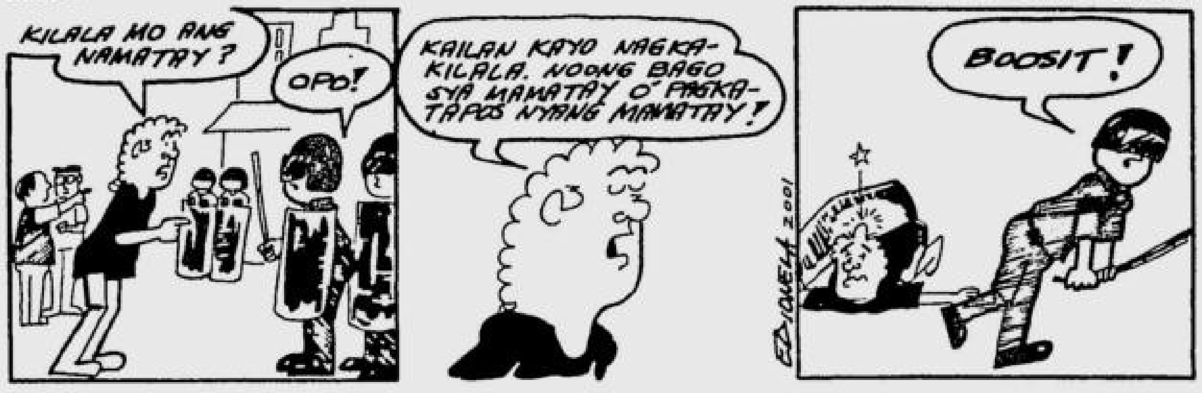
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


SABI NI SENYORITA E GIGISINGIN KO DAW KAYO AT MAHUHULI NA KAYO SA TRABAHO.
KAYA HETO...
AMUN RA AMUN DEI AKHEN ATUMAYEH YAKKUMEH YAKKUMEH !!
IMHOTEP!
PMJR2001
GALING NI BROSIA A.
IKAW NA LAGI ANG GIGISING SA SENYORITO MO A.
ITSH ALIVE!

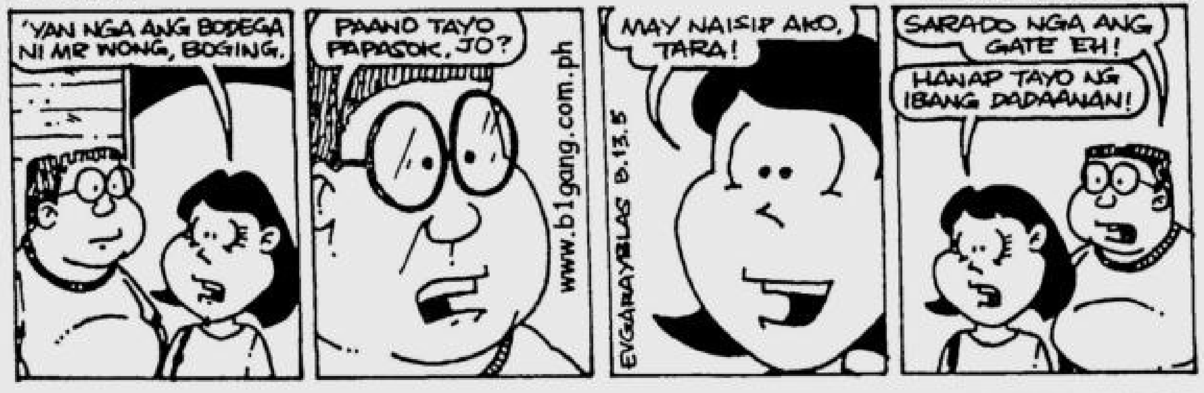
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


KILALA MO ANG NAMATAY?
OPO!
KAILAN KAYO NAGKA-KILALA. NOONG BAGO SYA MAMATAY O' PAGKA-TAPOS NYANG MAMATAY!
BOOSIT!
EDIONELA 2001

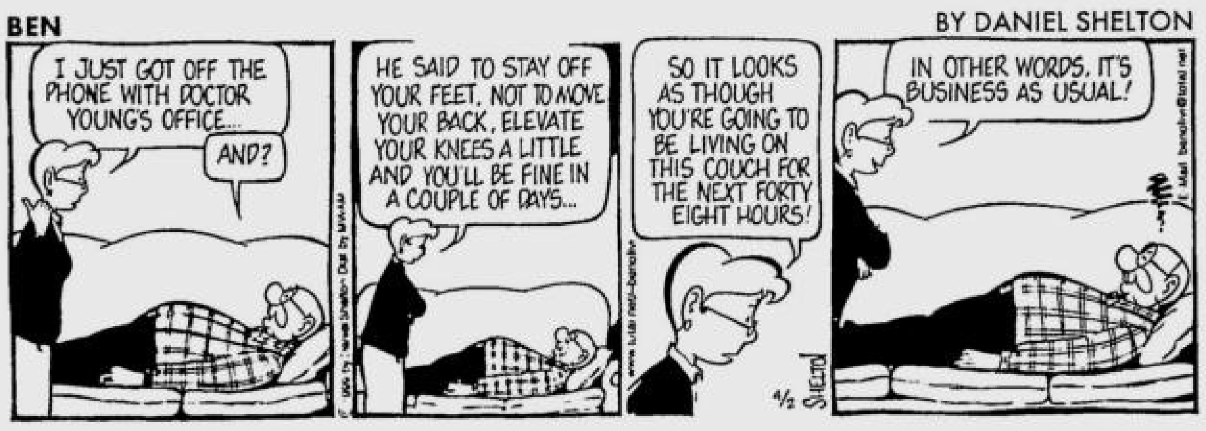
B1 GANG

BY ATS11/ JEA/ FEVG


'YAN NGA ANG BODEGA NI MR WONG, BOGING.
PAANO TAYO PAPASOK, JO?
www.b1gang.com.ph
EVGARAYBLAS 8.13.5
MAY NAISIP AKO, TARA!
SARADO NGA ANG GATE EH!
HANAP TAYO NG IBANG DADAANAN!

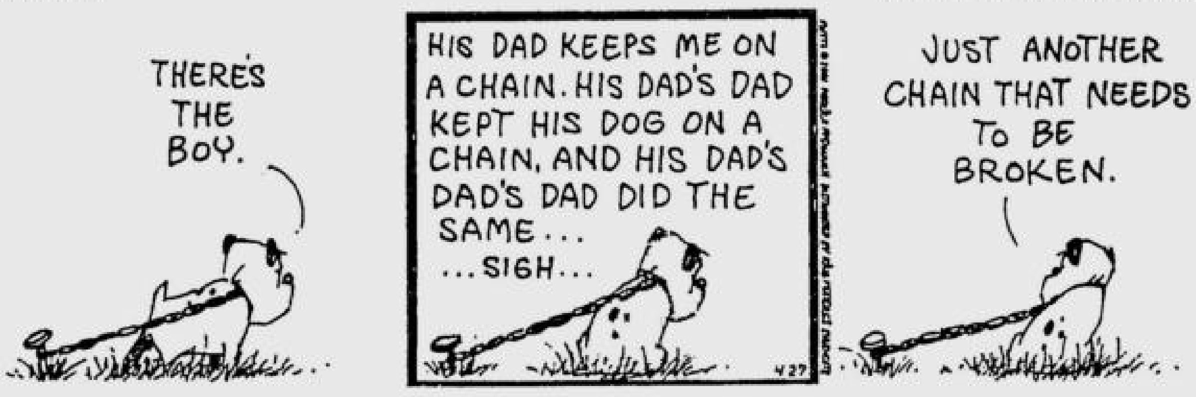
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


I JUST GOT OFF THE PHONE WITH DOCTOR YOUNG'S OFFICE...
AND?
HE SAID TO STAY OFF YOUR FEET, NOT TO MOVE YOUR BACK, ELEVATE YOUR KNEES A LITTLE AND YOU'LL BE FINE IN A COUPLE OF DAYS...
SO IT LOOKS AS THOUGH YOU'RE GOING TO BE LIVING ON THIS COUCH FOR THE NEXT FORTY EIGHT HOURS!
IN OTHER WORDS, IT'S BUSINESS AS USUAL!
4/2 SHELTON

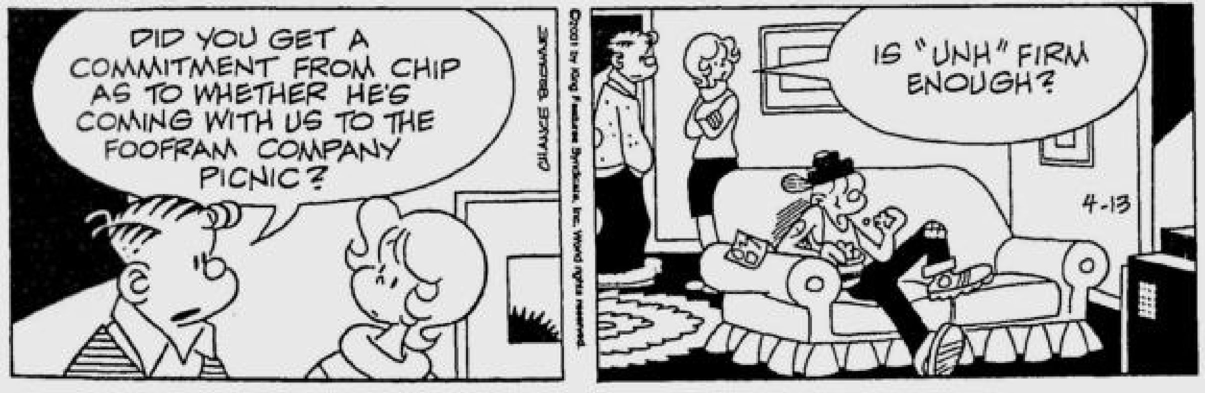
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


THERE'S THE BOY.
HIS DAD KEEPS ME ON A CHAIN. HIS DAD'S DAD KEPT HIS DOG ON A CHAIN, AND HIS DAD'S DAD'S DAD DID THE SAME... ...SIGH...
4 27
JUST ANOTHER CHAIN THAT NEEDS TO BE BROKEN.

HI AND LOIS

BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


DID YOU GET A COMMITMENT FROM CHIP AS TO WHETHER HE'S COMING WITH US TO THE FOOFRAM COMPANY PICNIC?
CHANCE BROWNE
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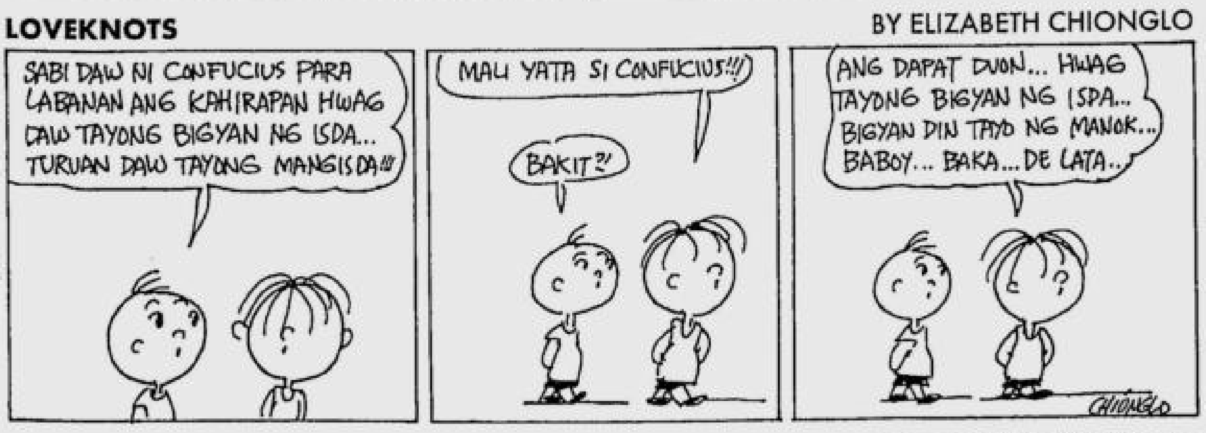
IS "UNH" FIRM ENOUGH?
4-13

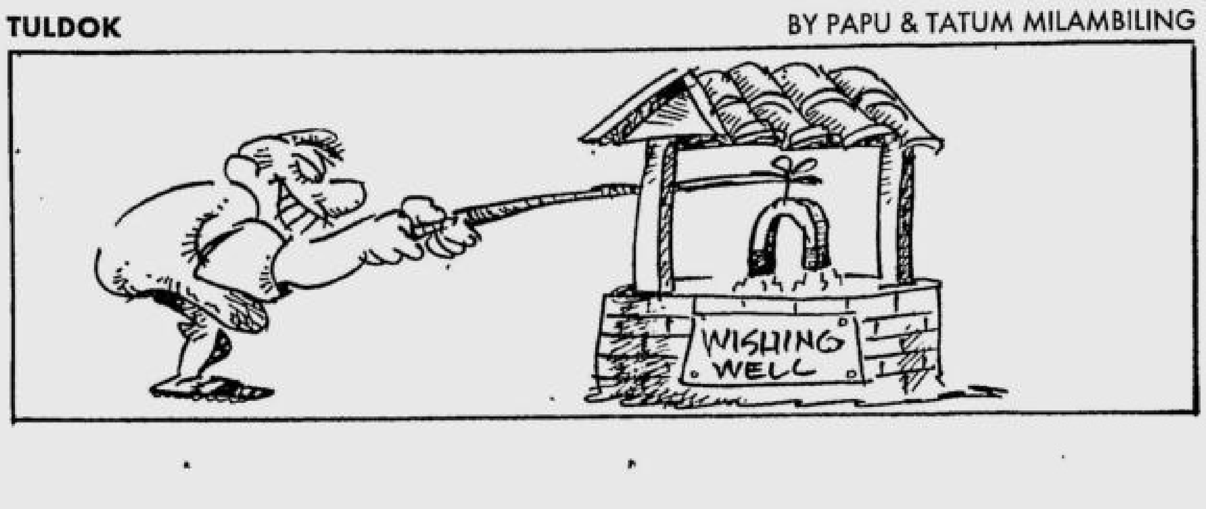
LOVEKNOTS

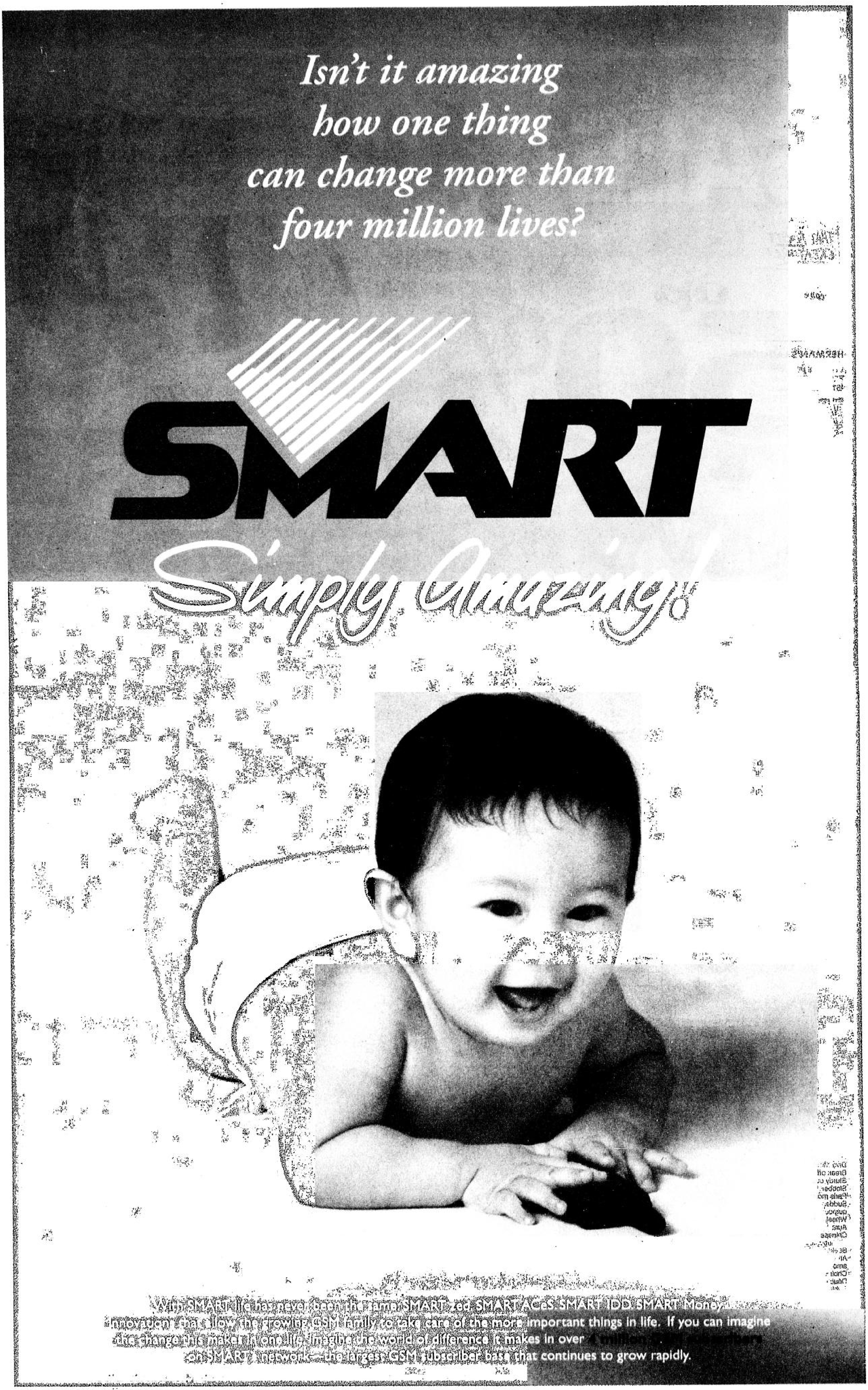
BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


SABI DAW NI CONFUCIUS PARA LABANAN ANG KAHIRAPAN HWAG DAW TAYONG BIGYAN NG ISDA... TURUAN DAW TAYONG MANGISDA!!!
MALI YATA SI CONFUCIUS!!!
BAKIT?!
ANG DAPAT DUON... HWAG TAYONG BIGYAN NG ISDA... BIGYAN DIN TAYO NG MANOK... BABOY... BAKA... DE LATA...
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING


WISHING WELL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Great savings and special bonus await you!

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june 1 - 30

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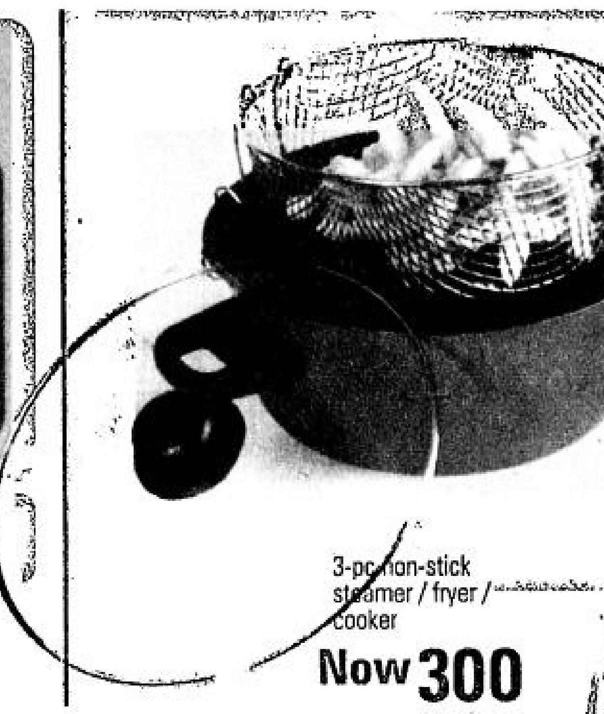
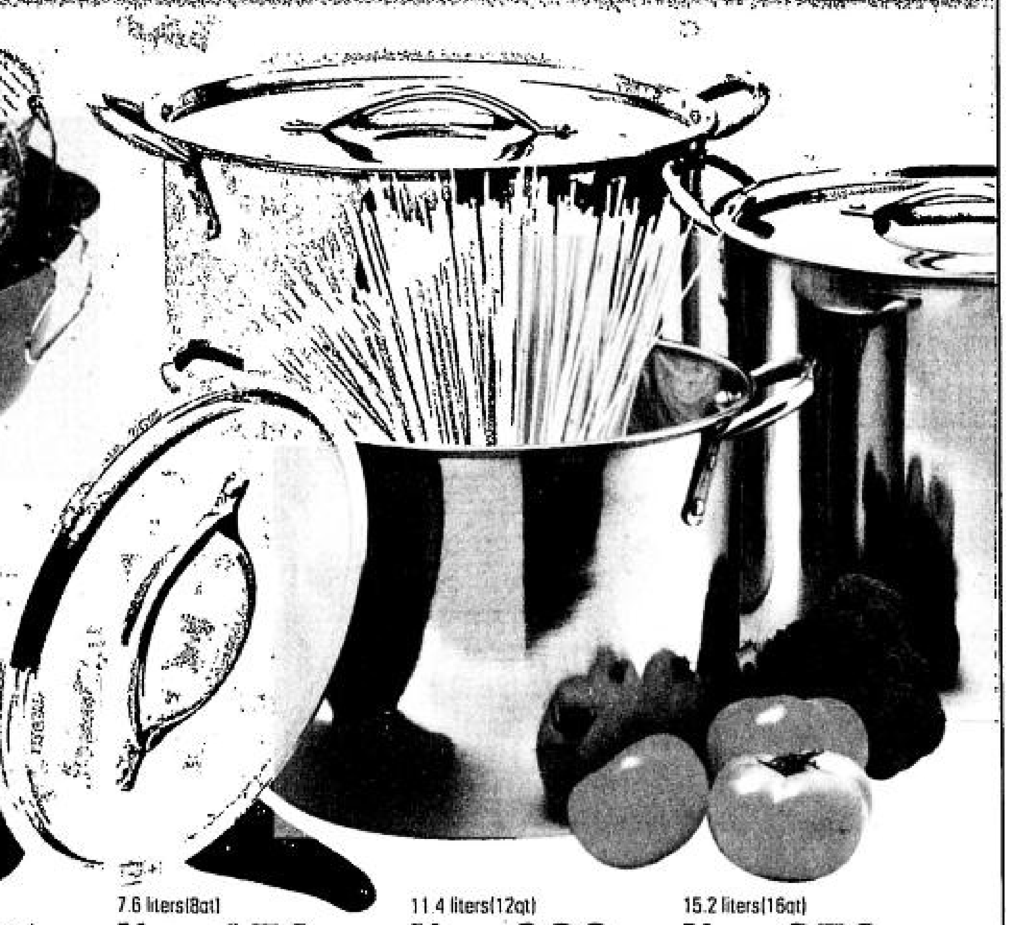


3-pc non-stick steamer / fryer / cooker
Now 300 Before 379.75



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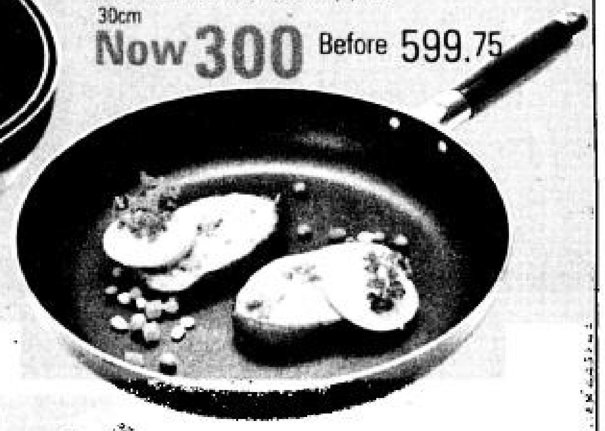
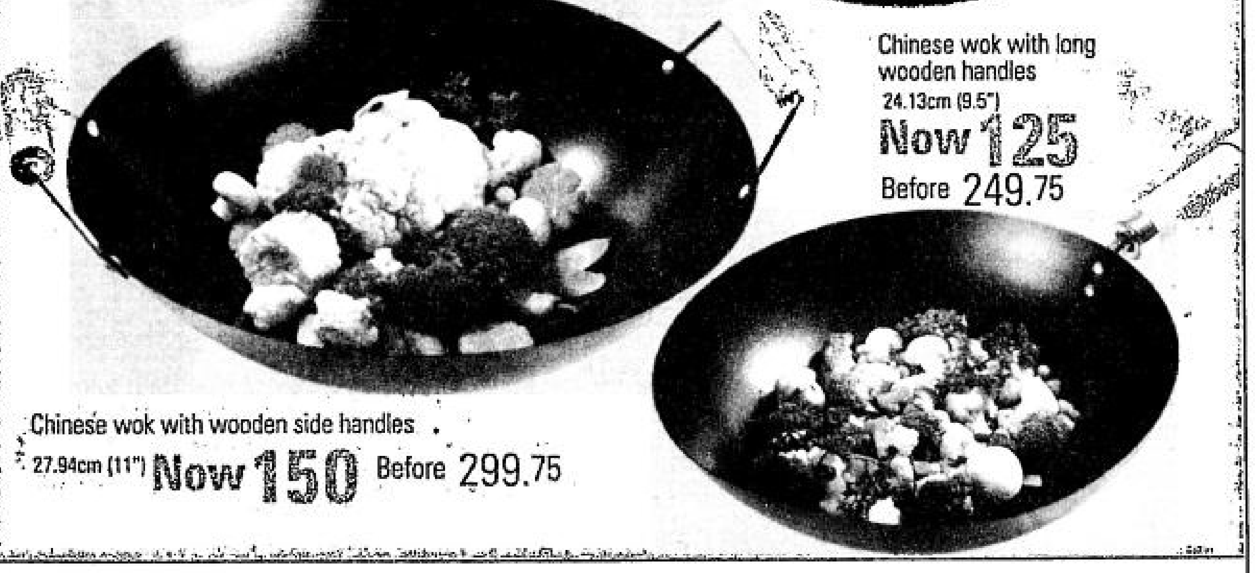
28cm **Now 300** Before 599.75
30cm **Now 350** Before 699.75

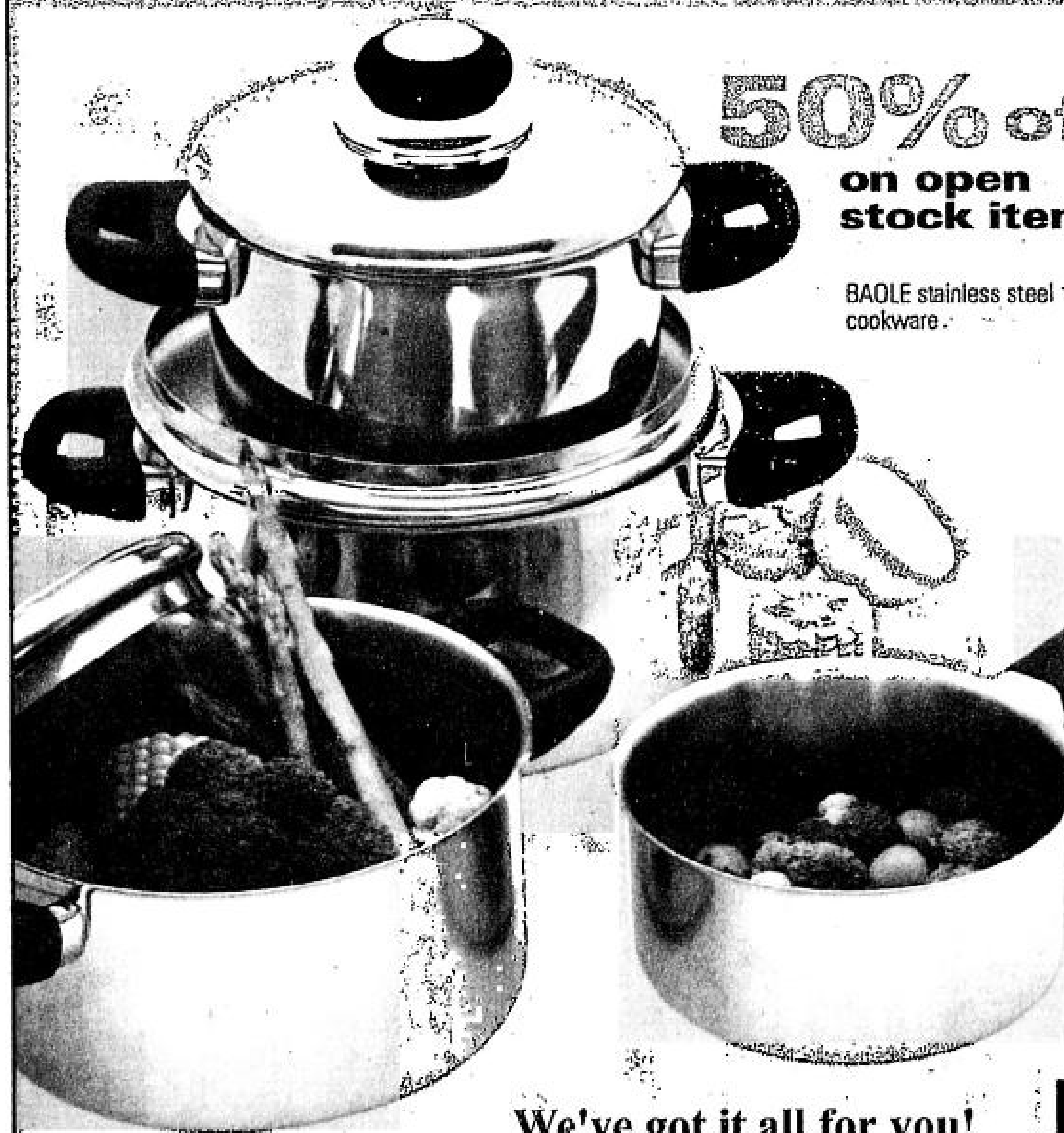


BEST LIVING non-stick fry pans
30cm
Now 300 Before 599.75



Chinese wok with long wooden handles
24.13cm (9.5")
Now 125
Before 249.75

Chinese wok with wooden side handles
27.94cm (11") **Now 150** Before 299.75



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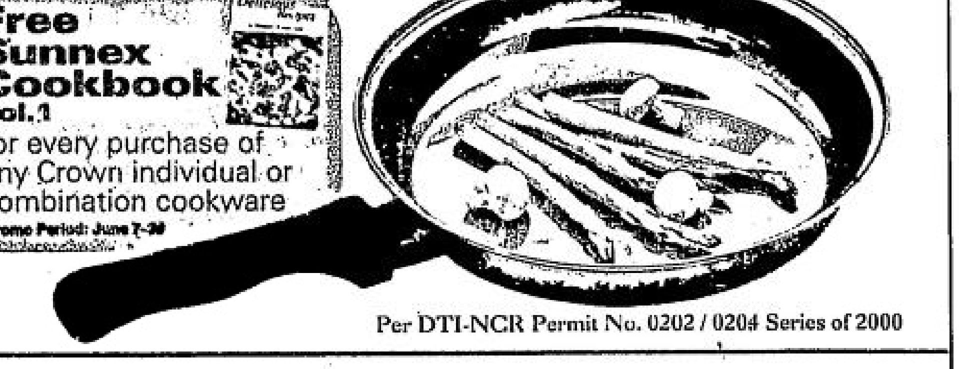

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Livin' la vida logo

By Jose Javier Reyes

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

ONCE upon a particularly insignificant get-together of people, who believed their own overrated significance, a group of tasteful ladies were lamenting about 21th-century Philippine existence. I was seated nearby and decided to do something I knew was an exercise of bad manners, but delicious nonetheless. I eavesdropped.

Of course, with their precision-tailored Saint Johns and impeccably crafted Blahniks, there was almost something surreal about hearing these damsels talk about how hard life had turned out to be. But it was still interesting, nonetheless—to hear their elementary analyses made to sound a bit profound and passably deep. Or was it the marked traces of their Chanel perfumes or their girlish references to a lovely Italian bistro in New York that served bite-size pizzas topped with Belugas that qualified them to be amateur Walden Bellos in their analyses of the Philippine situation? Whatever.

Their conversation started with the Philippine devaluation (or something as every day as that). Then the stream of their consciousness translated that monetary tragedy to the price of a Prada industrial nylon bag now selling at almost 14 grand. One of the ladies sighed—saying that, thank God, she collected all her Pradas, Fendis, Vuittons and Coach bags at a time when they were still selling at prices not quite equivalent to treating an entire barangay in Island Puti for lunch. The other lady was disturbed by this change of paradigm, stating that all these bags are investments—for they are so well-made that they will last a lifetime unlike anything cheaper that fall apart in less than a year.

A group of socialites laments the downslide of the peso and how it is affecting their conspicuous consumption of luxury goods and brand names

Fabulous fakes

The same lady shuddered, making sure that there was enough life caught in her Bulgari 5-carat diamond earrings and sending a flash of light on the eyes of the others in that spontaneous coven. This time she lamented the proliferation of fabulous fakes, especially those made in Korea and sold in Bangkok at about 1 percent the price of the originals.

"I cannot possibly imagine myself wearing those," the proper madam muttered with utmost conviction. "I think wearing fake designer merchandise is so... dishonest and insincere." She talked about all the fake Calvins, DKNYs and Chanels as if Mr. Klein, Ms Donna and Mr. Karl were included in the list of friends she sent the most delicious *ensaymadas* each Christmas. Her chunk of wisdom was eventually summarized by some deep cosmic-boggling line like, "It is not the quantity of clothes and accessories that count... it is the quality. It is not the price of the item that matters... it is the significance of its creation." Oh, okay. Eventually, she may include her Ferragamos in her will.

That was when the other socialite nymph bravely put her cards down on the table. She boldly admitted that, yes, she bought fakes and, yes, she mixed them with the real McCoys that she owned. And no one would notice. Everyone assumes, she said, that she is just so *somebody* that it is impossible for her to wear Bangkok/Korea stuff. This series of statements was eventually punctuated with a hearty laugh—while her other friends either smiled politely or started reassessing the present financial stature of her family.

"I mean, face it..." she yelped, "It's who you are. I can wear costume jewelry and people will think they're the real stuff because... well, I am me." That made a lot of sense. Mrs. Bogus Consumer worked out regularly, plunged into midlife with a simple refusal to be imprisoned by the numerals of her age, and most important, looked better than anyone in the room dripping with their Cartiers or shoved into their Escadas.

Right values

"I am teaching my kids the right values," contributed another one in this mentally stimulating conversation. "If my son is dying to have those Girbaud jeans or going crazy to buy those Nike shoes, then let him save for it." She went into this endearing account that only a mother was capable of sounding cute: She narrated how her 15-year-old son literally had to scrimp on his allowance just to be able to afford an A/X jacket from the Alabang branch. "Now that's what I call teaching them the value of money," she underlined with such parental wisdom.

Then the talk went here and there. Mrs. Perfect Mother went into a litany of outlet stores

LIVIN'/ p.F4

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DEFINING LAS VEGAS. The showgirl costume was like a chastity belt. "You couldn't get any of these girls if you wanted to. You'd kill yourself. You'd be stabbed with all these diamonds, surrounded by huge stones from Paris," said Mackie.

WITH HIS muse Cher who's a perfect size 6 and not much cleavage

CHER was the first person on American television to expose her navel, which later became a national obsession.

The Big Mac of Hollywood fashion

Unmistakably Mackie
By Frank De Caro
Universe Publishing, 1999
144 pages

By Cherish Garcia Hernandez

REVIEW

THE NAME Bob Mackie is usually associated with sequins, feathers and fur. He is not your mainstream designer: his creations are theatrical to say the least, befitting a red carpet entrance complete with flashing light bulbs. This is why he is a favorite of movie stars and drag queens. Some critics say that his designs are of a bygone era, one of big MGM musical extravaganzas, and completely out of touch with today's modern minimalist aesthetic. Frank De Caro, Style Over Substance columnist for the New York Times, defends Mackie's genius and opens our eyes to the artist within, in his book "Unmistakably Mackie."

Born in Monterey, California, Mackie's creative juices were running from as far back as he can remember. At the age of 5, he says he fell down the stairs because he was prancing about in high heels and fruits on his head pretending to be Carmen Miranda. During one Halloween he went to school dressed as a Toulouse-Lautrec lady and shocked everyone in class. He later studied advertising and illustration at Pasadena College, then costume design at Chouinard Art Institute at Los Angeles. His background in costume design is evident in his bombastic designs.

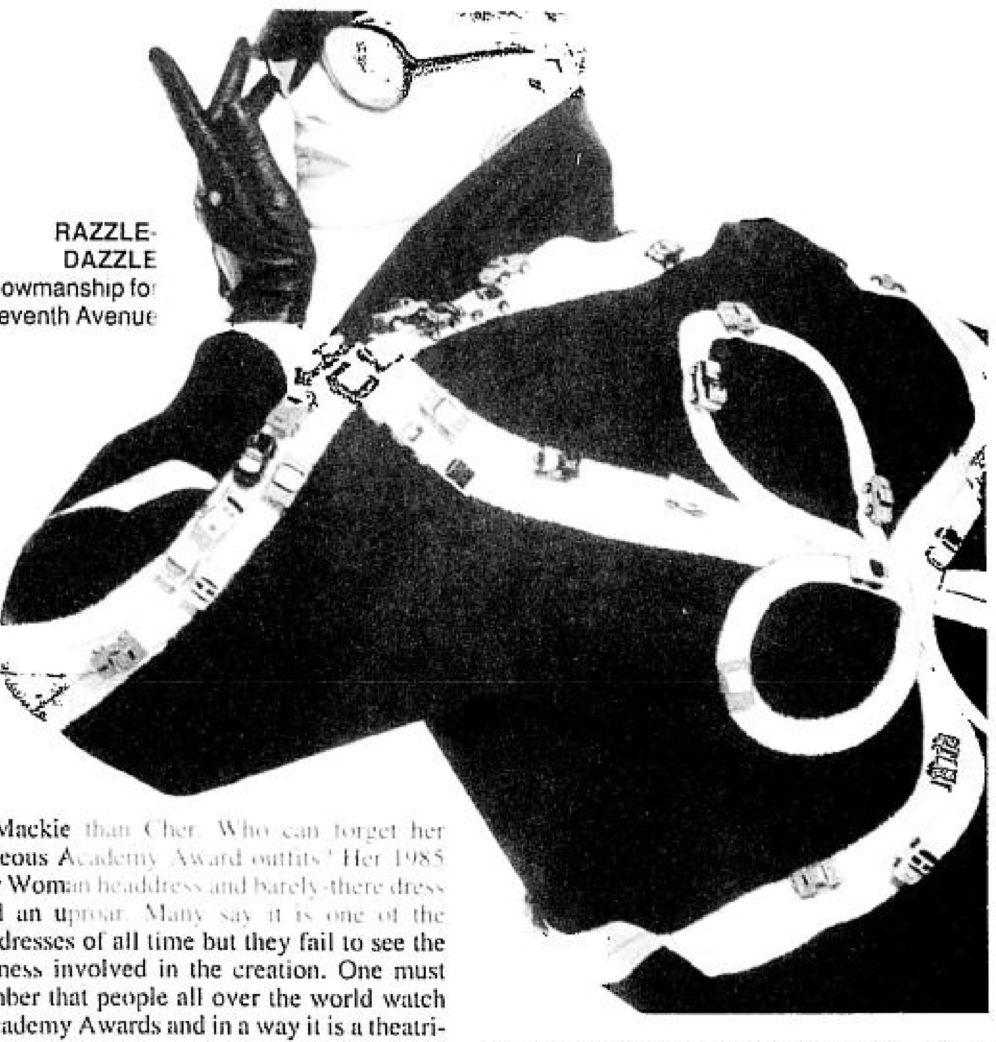
He was an assistant to the famous costume designer Edith Head at Paramount for some time, but his big break came via television designing costumes for "The Judy Garland Show," "The Carol Burnett Show" and "The Sony and Cher Show." When the variety show format got tired and fizzled out, Mackie found his second wind in Las Vegas designing for entertainers like Mitzi Gaynor, Ann Margaret and Bette Midler. Since then Mackie has been a prolific designer for the opera, ballet and Broadway. He also has a line of Barbie Collectibles as well as a ready-to wear line that debuted in 1982. He has won seven Emmy awards, an Oscar nomination, and has been honored by the Fashion Institute of Technology with a retrospective of his designs.

"Unmistakable Mackie" is stylishly laid out with numerous photographs detailing his work throughout the years. It has interviews with many Mackie muses as well as interviews with the designer himself. For those who dismissed his creations as kitsch, this book will alter your perception. As De Caro says, even if Mackie's creations are outrageous, they are "built on a foundation of fashion know-how and impeccable quality." Even Diana Vreeland was quoted to have said that Mackie's clothes "are not equaled even in French workrooms."

Perhaps no other name is as synonymous with Mackie than Cher. Who can forget her outrageous Academy Award outfits? Her 1985 Spider Woman headdress and barely-there dress caused an uproar. Many say it is one of the worst dresses of all time but they fail to see the cleverness involved in the creation. One must remember that people all over the world watch the Academy Awards and in a way it is a theatrical production. We want to see images that will be imbedded in our consciousness for a while. And Cher and Mackie succeeded. Can you remember what anyone else wore that year?

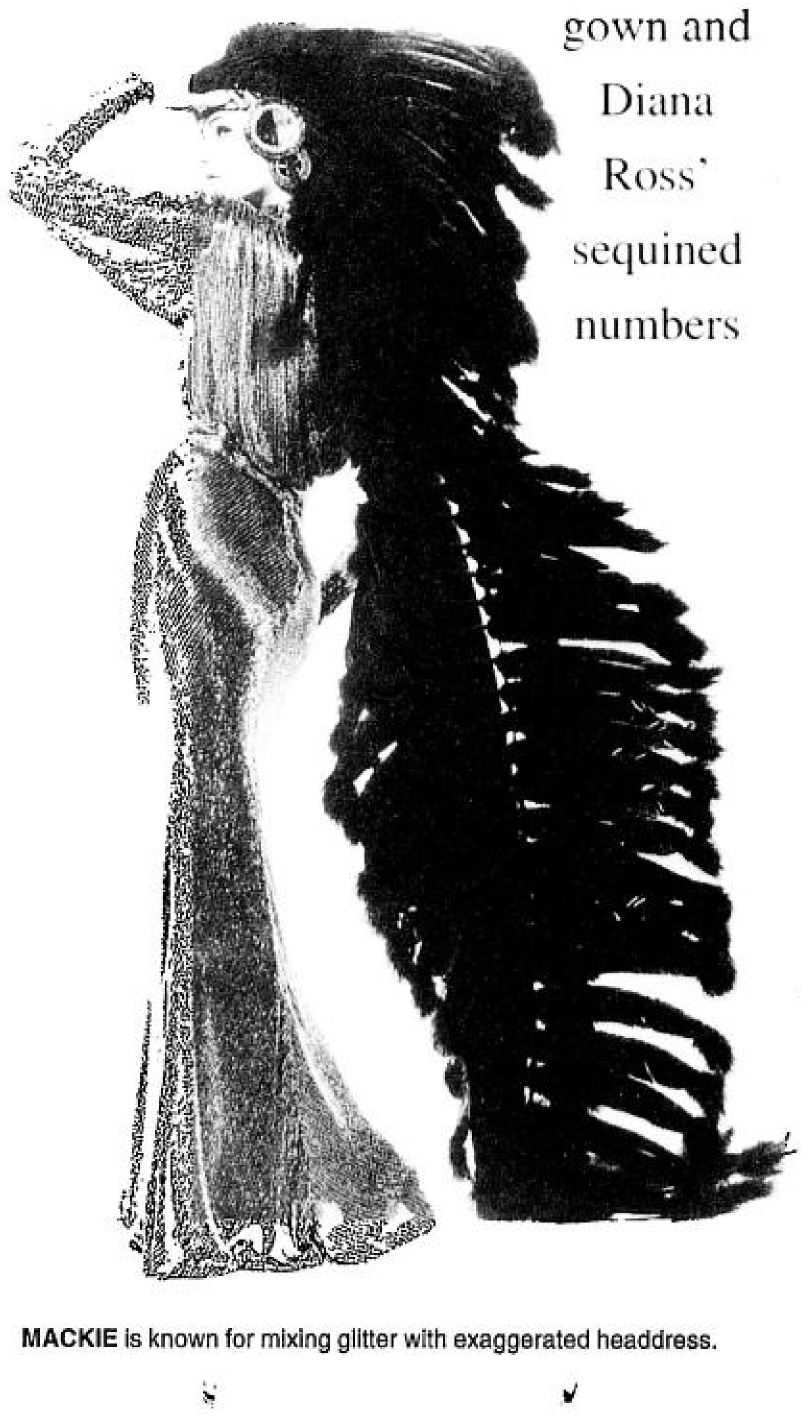
Of course, the bottom line is your average woman will not wear Mackie. After all, how many opportunities do we have to dress in sequins? This probably explains why performers known for their larger-than-life personas like Elton John, Diana Ross and Ru Paul gravitate toward him. All this said, one couldn't deny Mackie's influence on 20th-century pop culture and his place in fashion history. As New York Times fashion editor Amy Spindler says, Bob Mackie is "fringe, tassels, gold and brocade. It's everything dressing up was supposed to be when you were a kid."

Bob Mackie was the genius behind Carol Burnett's outrageous dresses, Cher's 'Spider Woman' gown and Diana Ross' sequined numbers



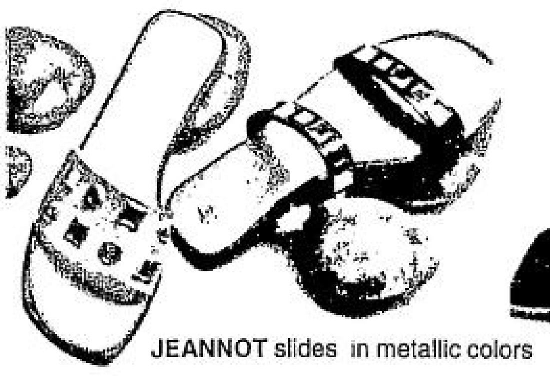
RAZZLE-DAZZLE showmanship for Seventh Avenue

BARBIE. Mackie's greatest model since Cher

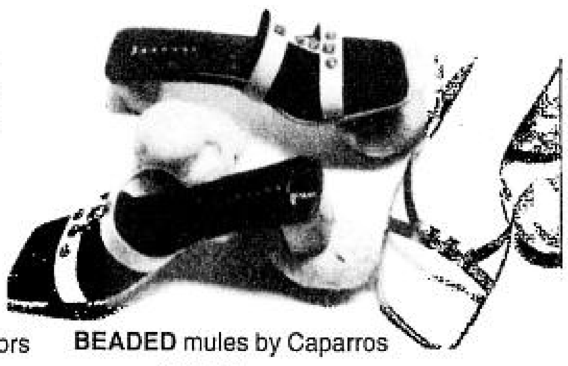


MACKIE is known for mixing glitter with exaggerated headdress.

MACKIE with a glamorous Carol Burnett who favored tailored designs



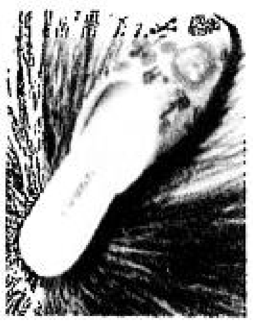
JEANNOT slides in metallic colors



BEADED mules by Caparros

Slide into style

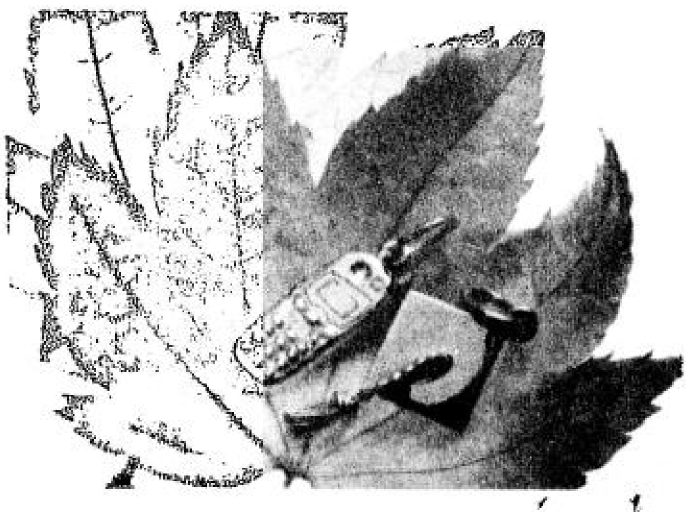
SHOES can come from unconventional materials. Denim slides with embroideries make the fabric more appealing. Glass studs are placed over metallic leather. Sequined mules are today's version of granny slippers. Check out Momento.



JEANNOT slides with metal details and wooden heels

HEROIC CHARMS

The Bayani Collection offers charm bracelets that carry all the hero trinkets in the selection, as well as separate charms for those who wish to collect individual mementos of their favorite heroes. Every sterling silver from Michelis is 100-percent handcrafted by highly trained Filipino silversmiths according to global quality standards. Located at the G/F Greenbelt Mall, Ayala Center.



CONSUL George Schulze, Andre Kahn, Becky Garcia, Paqui and Lillibeth Cmpos, Lea Meriguet

FRENCH Consul Pierre Coquillat, Becky Garcia, Sean and Zapphire O' Sullivan at Le Soufflé

Becky Garcia is the fiery queen of the ballroom scene who will stop at nothing to have the dancesport accepted as an Olympic event

DANCING with Russian dancer Mikhail Biroun

Toasting the ballroom queen

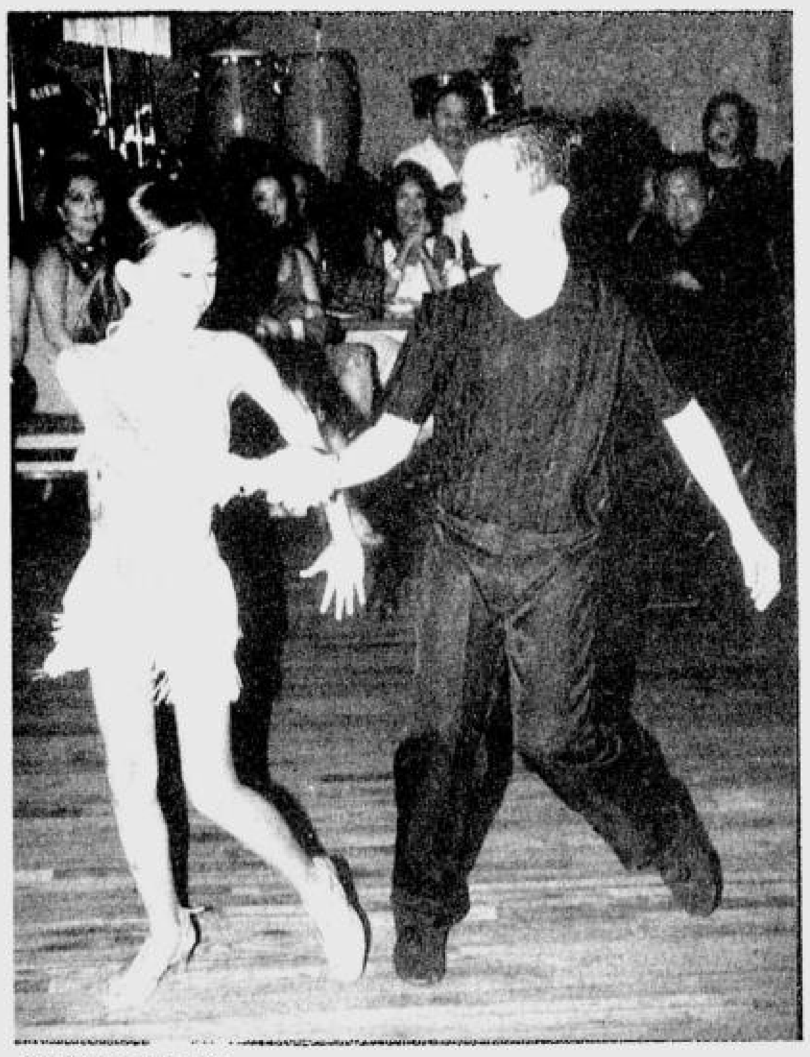
Quick flashback. During the glory days of disco in the late '80s, there was a club called Kudos at the once-swanky Creekside Arcade across the estero that separates Amorsolo Street from a strip known as Mile Long Drive in Makati.

Owned by businessman Oscar Reyes, Kudos enjoyed good business with its Wednesday Swing-Out, a midweek dance "gimmick" that became the precursor of what is now known as ballroom dancing.

Becky Garcia was one of the regular guests at Kudos where she and her glitzy pals displayed their terpsichorean talent. It was also here where we anointed her Lambada Queen, after seeing her going through the seductive body movements of the then Latin dance rage.

Fast forward to present. Lambada has long gone passé, but Becky Garcia is still dancing. She shed off the Lambada Queen title in favor of the less-constricting Ballroom Queen. In our opinion, however, the tag First Lady of Dance Sport is more appropriate—and more elevating—for her. It is an honorary title she richly deserves for her advocacy to professionalize ballroom dancing and elevate it as a legitimate sport.

Becky Garcia's public persona is only a fraction of her colorful and multi-faceted personality. The popular image of Becky dressed in skin-tight outfits embellished with beads and sequins tells only a part of what she really is. Behind the figure-hugging dresses and chunky accessories is a woman of significant substance.



JUDITH and Renier

MAYEN Carmona, Caloy Pimentel, Becky Garcia and Baby Magpayo

DR. Guenter Matschuck, Johnny Litton

Career woman

Outside of the ballroom scene, Becky (born Ma. Rebecca Garcia of genuine Bicolana roots) is a full-time career woman who runs a successful public relations firm (Chase Thomas Int'l.) and a multinational company engaged in building maintenance system equipment called Vonotec, which she coowns with longtime companion, French businessman Henri Muzzarelli.

And that's not all. Long before glossy lifestyle magazines became a publishing phenomenon, Becky was publishing one already. It was called Career Girl, which enjoyed considerable success until 1987. She also had a stint as PR manager of the now defunct Tradewinds Hotel.

Today, Becky maintains a prodigious and backbreaking routine. As president of the Professional Dance Sport Council of the Phils. and the Professional Dance Teachers Association, both of which she founded, she is the moving force of the awesome task of keeping ballroom dancing alive and, more important, getting it recognized as an Olympic event. In line with this mission, she travels all over the country to promote ballroom dancing. She also brings foreign dance champions to the Philippines to give seminars and clinics to local aficionados.

On the way to being a multimedia personality, Becky writes occasional articles on ballroom dancing for this paper, hosts a segment on ABC 5's dance show "Eezy Dancing Non-Stop" and anchors a radio program on NBC Angel Radyo.

Olympic sport

Last Monday, Becky jetted to Blackpool, England for an international ballroom dancing competition. But before she left, Becky was honored with a flurry of birthday lunches and dinners tendered by friends such as Len Olbes at the Shang Palace, Sean and Zapphire O'Sullivan at their Rockwell condo, Marissa Fenton at Mandarin's Tin Hau, Serge and Yolly Ayson at their Ayala Alabang home, Rica Thio at her Ritz Tower unit, Paqui and Lillibeth Campos at their SanLo digs, Makati Mayor Elenita Binay (a staunch friend and supporter) at the Pen's Old Manila, Joanne Matschuck and company at L'Incontro, and chef extraordinaire Billy King at his fabulous Le Soufflé at The Fort.

But the centerpiece of Becky's birthday celebration was the well-attended ballroom shindig at Caramba given in her honor by the tony Fort Bonifacio resto's main men Louie Magpayo, Caloy Pimentel and Louie Pratts. Looking every inch the First Lady of Dance Sport as she sat on a high chair near the stage, Becky watched a spectacular dance show prepared and participated in by her adoring colleagues. It was a fitting and much-deserved tribute.

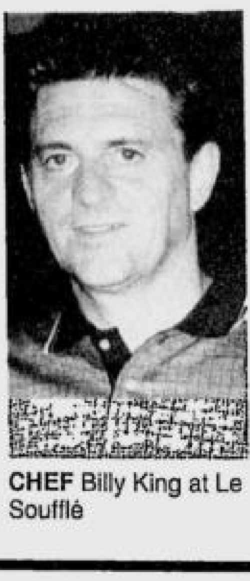
Donnie Ramirez

GILBERT Perez, Mellie and Louie Ablaza, Lorna Quisumbing, and Mario Katigbak

MINDA Lonsdale

HENRI at L'Incontro

LINDA Lagdameo



CHEF Billy King at Le Soufflé

When we said we have a long line-up of great food...
Superstar
Chicken Club

The real designer behind the Princess Diana magic

Catherine Walker
An autobiography
by the Private Couturier
to Diana, Princess of Wales
Universe Publishing, 1998,
154 pages

BY CHERISH GARCIA-HERNANDEZ

REVIEW

MANY people don't realize that although the late Princess Diana wore Versace, Chanel and many more high-profile designers, Catherine Walker made most of the dresses she wore to important official functions. These were the clothes she was most photographed in and these are the clothes that are etched in our memories of the stylish Princess.

Catherine Walker was born in France in 1945 and didn't relocate to England till the 1960s. It is ironic that many consider her to be a British designer when she is, in fact, French. It must be the mixture of influences from both countries that gives her designs a distinct look of being formal and proper, and yet stylish with a bit of flair.

Well-written

In a well-written autobiography, Catherine Walker tells the story of her bittersweet life and how she got into the career of designing clothes. At the same time, she takes the reader through a detailed journey of her work, with Princess Diana's dresses in the forefront. Half of the book is filled with photographs of dresses and coats she created, complete with closeups of the fabulous beadwork and workmanship involved in her creations.

Catherine Walker's life is tragic. Her parents divorced shortly after World War II ended and her first husband died suddenly and unexpectedly a few years into their marriage. She was left to raise two children and earned her living teaching French in England. She also battled breast cancer later in her life.

Her career as a designer was something she stumbled into. Not formally trained, she started making children's dresses as a form of therapy after her husband's death. Her attention to detail and obsessive perfectionism soon caught the attention of London mothers.

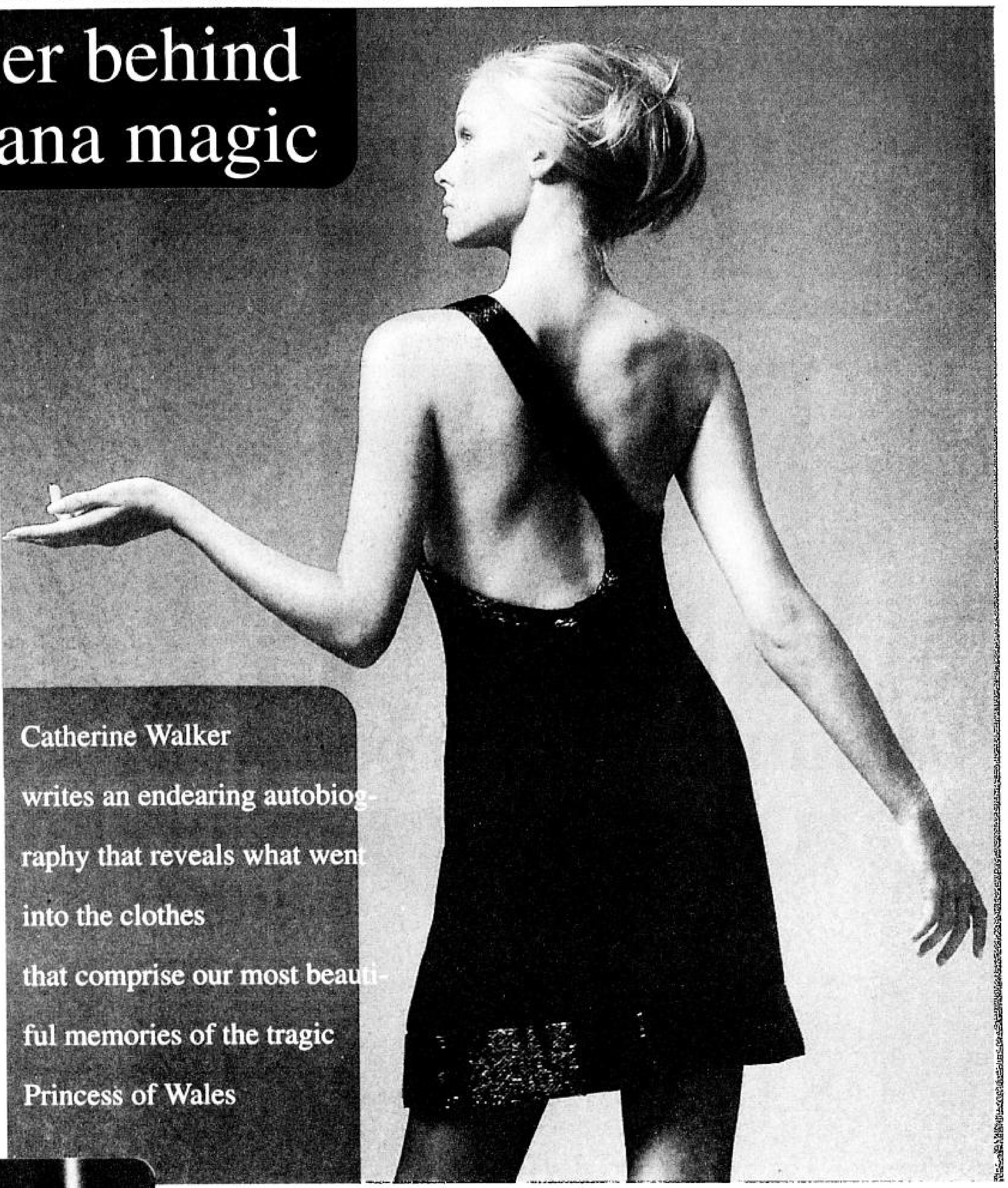
As her business flourished, the production of maternity clothes seemed a logical progression. Her life changed when she received an order for a famous pregnant woman—the Princess of Wales. She made the green silk crepe de chine smock dress that Diana wore when she left St. Mary's Hospital after the birth of Prince William. And although she thought she wouldn't hear from Diana again until her next pregnancy, she was asked to do a few coats for the Princess in 1992. This was the beginning of a relationship that lasted until Diana's untimely death.

Entertaining little stories

A lot of what makes this book so interesting is that Walker offers little stories and tidbits when she talks about a dress. For instance, Diana had a visit to Brazil shortly after it lost the World Cup to Argentina. Walker had to make sure she didn't design anything in green, yellow or blue, which were the official colors of the team, or blue and white, which were the colors of the Argentinean football team. She came up with a spectacular asymmetric dress in soft pink. Through the clothes and the stories behind them, the reader also gets a glimpse at what the Princess and her life was all about.

When Catherine Walker talks about Diana, she does not exploit their friendship. And, indeed, it was as the trust Diana placed in her is evident. It just so happens that Diana was Walker's most prominent client and is greatly responsible for bringing her to the fore. The late Liz Tilberis, who was the editor of British Vogue at the time Walker was starting, also spotted Walker's talent. Tilberis gave Walker a lot of exposure in the magazine and she also wrote the foreword to this book.

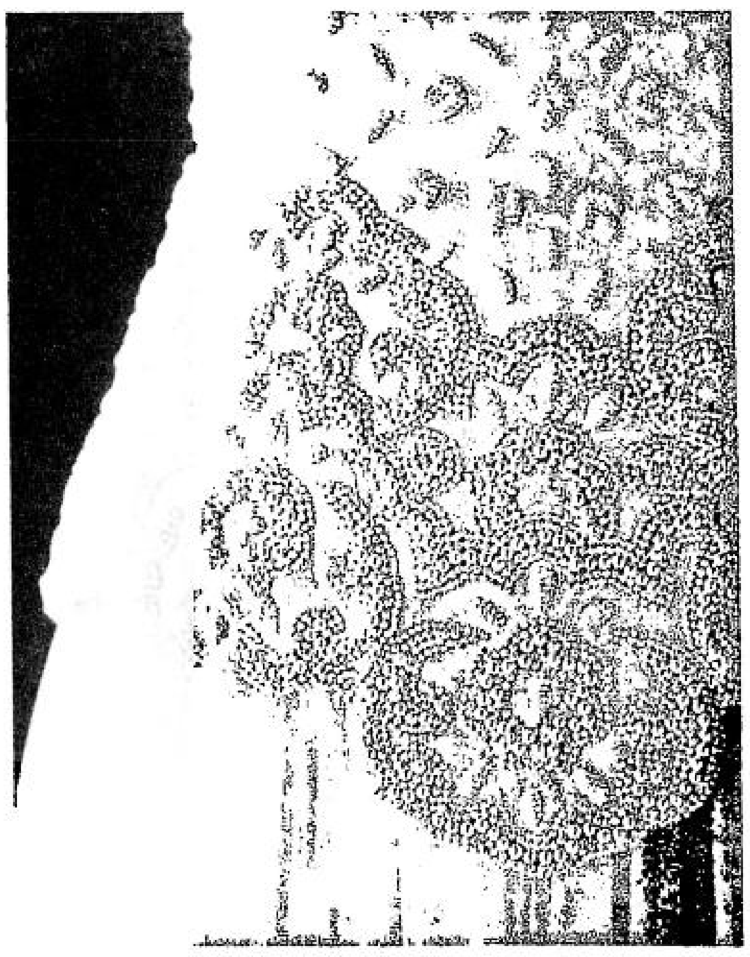
Catherine Walker is not a superstar designer the way Calvin Klein, Marc Jacobs or Karl Lagerfeld are. Revisiting her work, however, reveals an expert in clothing, someone worthy of being called a couturier. Her designs are classical and expertly made. They are, indeed, for royalty in form and function. Her autobiography is a joy to read. They are memoirs, really, and in the end you feel as if you had taken that journey with her.



Catherine Walker writes an endearing autobiography that reveals what went into the clothes that comprise our most beautiful memories of the tragic Princess of Wales

THE SENSUALITY of the back is focused by a jet asymmetric strap, curving across it and along the hem.

THE LATE Princess Diana in a pearl, sequin and crystal embroidered lace dress with Ralph Lauren and Vogue editor Anna Wintour at the fund-raising gala for a cancer institute in 1996



DETAIL of a long embroidered basque in Buche silk georgette over a fine sun-ray pleated skirt. French needlepoint lace was the inspiration for the embroidery. It is adorned in the palest of pink graduated pearls.

Livin' la vida logo

(From page F1)

where you can buy all the name brands at a fraction of the price; she practically gave a to-the-last-detail description of all the outlet dumpsites at San Bruno. She said her son even introduced her to the joys of barfly.com or eBay, thereby qualifying her to be one of the first Pinoy high-tech bargain hunters. "You just cannot imagine how many steals you can get from the Internet!" A very excited sister-in-arms also mentioned how she practically goes epileptic each time she read the word "Sale" plastered outside a designer label store whether here or abroad. The girls all agreed. They burst into that kind of collective giggle you only get in convent schools during high school fairs.

That was when one of husbands broke into the circle to ask his wife if she gave their son permission to use the BMW. He looked smart in his Paul Smith, predictable with his Rolex watch and confident in his Bally shoes.

Meanwhile, as I sat quietly with two other guests who went into a heated discussion of the implications of the Omnibus Power Bill, I rummaged through some data on my mind. I read somewhere that David Geffen was happy and comfortable with his white T-shirts, Gap jeans and sneakers—while crisscrossing the skies in his own private jet and counting his billions.

I tried to make sense out of the conversation of the ladies nearby, but at this point, they were discussing something more important. They were into yet another heated argument that seemed to affect the entire order of the universe. They were arguing about the pros and cons of liposuction.

Western Bacon Cheeseburger
Famous Star
Santa Fe Chicken
Charbroiled BBQ Chicken
Spicy Chicken

CITYLITE 88.3 station manager and KBP VP for radio Pinky Aseron emcees the *merienda cena*.

MIRIAM College president Dr. Patricia Benitez Licuanan—one of the INQUIRER editors' choice for Top 10 women

TINGTING Cojuangco and Child Study Center principal Cynthia Morales

ALUMNI Association officer Tootsie Moreno-Vicente, Sr. Marisa Lichauco, M.M., journalist Melinda Quintos-de Jesus (back turned), Graduate School Dean Milagros Ibe, Grade School principal Cora Reyes, Child Study Center principal Cynthia Morales, Cyber Dyaryo's Brenda Naval, international freelance journalist Pat Sutter

Miriam College fetes its alumnae in media

BY CLAIRE AGBAYANI

THE TASK before us was formidable: assistant communications media officer Mira Reyes and I had to put together a list of all the Maryknoll /Miriam College Alumni in Media. Once we had done that, we had to make sure invitations were sent out to them and they would come. Of course, we didn't know what we were getting into until we were halfway through. By then, it was too late to back out.

While half the city's population was making an exodus to the provinces for some cool rural air, we burned the midnight oil trying to figure out the Miriam College map.

Soon, the invitations were delivered, faxed or e-mailed (or all of the above), and we got our first responses. For some strange reason, three of the graduates had just given birth. There were those who had to go out of town, or out of the country for business or personal reasons.

When we finally held the *merienda* for Maryknoll/Miriam College Alumni in Media at the La Porte Music Hall, we realized that the institution has indeed produced some of the country's prominent media practitioners.

Long list

Among those who attended the event were Dolly Anne Carvajal and Cathy Babao-Guballa of the INQUIRER, Theresa Defensor of Business World, Gay Ace Domingo of Summit Publishing, Winnie Isiderio-Mariano of ABS-CBN, Tingting Cojuangco of Philippine Star, Pinky Aseron of CityLite 88.3 and KBP, Sari Yap of Mega Magazine, Melinda Quintos-de Jesus of Philippine Journalism Review, Brenda Nuval of Cyber Dyaryo, and Patricia Nepomuceno-Sutter, an international freelance journalist based in Vienna.

The administrators present were: Dr. Patricia Benitez Licuanan, Miriam College president; Dr. Rosario Lapus, vice president for academic affairs; Dr. Milagros Ibe, graduate school dean; Dr. Glenda Fortez, associate dean for academic affairs (in lieu of college dean Aurora de Dios); outgoing high school principal Juliet Reyes; Miriam adult education principal Sonia Arce; grade school principal Dr. Corazon Reyes; Child Study Center principal Cynthia Morales, and Physical Plant and Security director engineer Alfredo Capili. Also present were Sr. Marisa Lichauco, M.M.; Maryknoll/Miriam College Alumni Association vice chair Tootsie Moreno-Vicente and Gina Galura of the Communication Arts Department.

In her opening remarks, Dr. Licuanan noted that "[Maryknoll] graduates of the '50s, '60s and '70s tend to work in print media newspapers as columnists, writers and reporters. In the '80s, they began working in radio and television. The '90s graduates of Miriam College to the present seem to be dominated by television [personalities]." As a matter of fact, one of us is connected with an Internet website

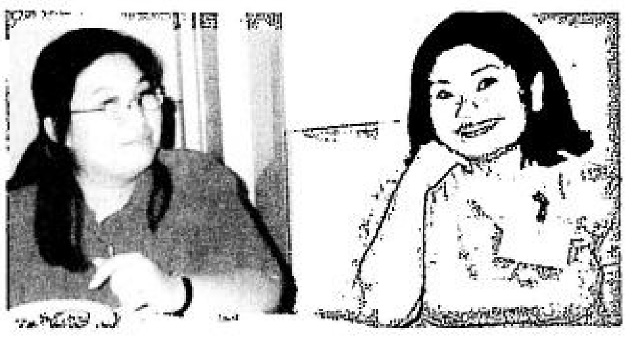
And more

The list is pretty long, but among the graduates of Maryknoll and Miriam College are Deedee Siytangco of Manila Bulletin; Rina Jimenez-David, Margie Moran-Floirendo, Aida Sevilla Mendoza and Marge Enriquez of the INQUIRER; Barbara Gonzalez, Edna Vida Froilan, Girlie Rodis, Panjee Tapales-Lopez and Maridol Ranoa of Philippine Star; Chit Lijauco of Manila Times; Michaela Fenix of Today; Maricar Jara-Puyod of Manila Standard; Iris Ciarrillo of Miscellaneous magazine; Margie Holmes of Cosmopolitan, Abante and Abante Tonight; Angela Calero of Mega Magazine; Penny Daza of Metro, and bank executive and columnist Roni Tapia-Merk.

Also graduates are: Cherry Bayle of WRock, Mano Figueras of 103.5 K-Lite, Monica Francesca Tobias and Pam Puen of RX 93.1, Thelma Dumpit-Murillo of Radio Veritas, Aileen Intia of dzBB, Menchie Silvestre of GMA, Jesela Roque of PTV 4, Ronnie Azurin of RPN 9, Jannelle So of Viva TV, Georgette Tengco-Alvarez of Channel [V], Anna Leah Sarabia of XYZ TV, ARD German TV producer Kara Magsanoc-Alikpala, Macky Recinto of "The Probe Team and Nena Benigno of CBN News Asia.

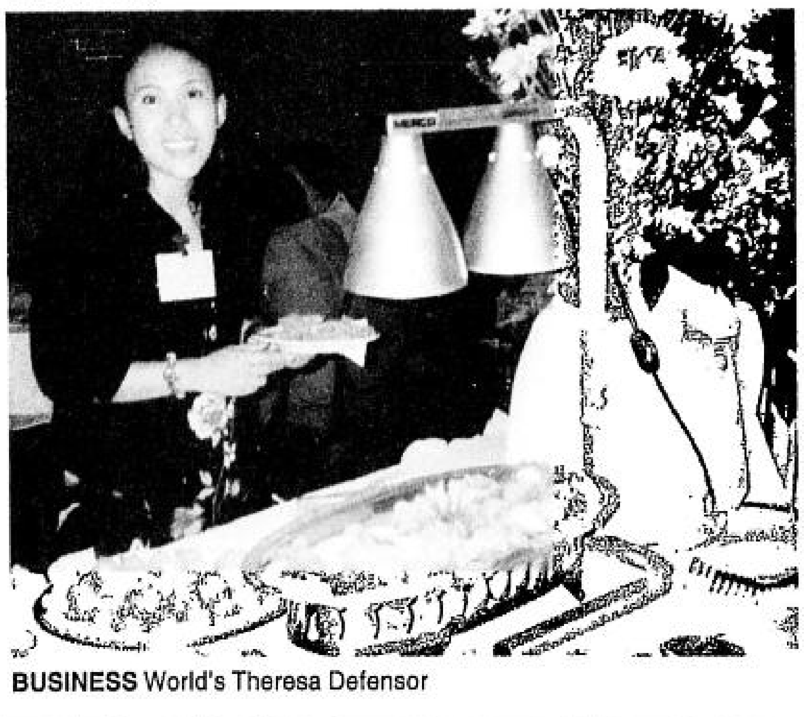
The graduates of Maryknoll/Miriam College who work with Summit Publishing are: JoAnn Maglipon, Suzette Tolentino, Annie Santos, Katherine Jimenez, Cindy Macapagal Covey, Myriam Fatima Custodio, Anna Adan and Kathrina Manalo. Those working with ABS-CBN are Korina Sanchez, Doris Bigornia, Connie Sison, Katherine de Castro, Oline Howard, Rocky Ubana and Hazel Cantos.

Incidentally, the Alumni in Media event will be followed by a series of lunches and dinners with members of the quad-media press as Miriam College celebrates its diamond jubilee this school year.



EXECUTIVE Assistant to the President Ana Jasmine Jayme (far left) with Mega Magazine editor in chief Sari Yap

ASSOCIATE Dean for Academic Affairs Glenda Fortez, PDI Lifestyle reporter Cathy Babao Guballa and Sr. Marisa Lichauco



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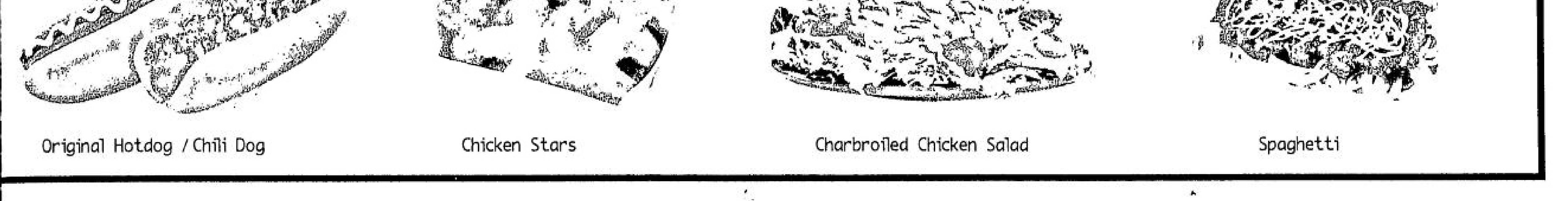


Original Hotdog / Chili Dog
Chicken Stars
Charbroiled Chicken Salad
Spaghetti

Canada's Royal Winnipeg Ballet to perform at CCP

THE WORLD-RENOWNED Royal Winnipeg Ballet of Canada will perform for the first time on June 19, 8 p.m. at the Cultural Center of the Philippines' Main Theater.

Founded in 1939 by Gweneth Lloyd and Betty Farrally, the Royal Winnipeg Ballet (RWB) holds the double distinction of being Canada's premiere ballet company and the longest operating ballet company in North America. Its first tour of Canada began in 1945. In 1953, the Company received its royal title, the first granted under the reign of Queen Elizabeth II. The RWB completed its tour of America in 1954. From 1958-1988 under the artistic direction of Arnold Spohr, the Royal Winnipeg Ballet grew and developed as one of the world's internationally renowned companies. After Spohr came other notable former dance artists who all served as artistic director from 1988-1995; among them, Henry Jurriens, John Meehan and William Whitener. In 1996, Andre Lewis was named its artistic director. During his tenure, Lewis has worked to revitalize the company's repertoire, especially with the commissioning of new full-length ballets such as "Dracula" and "Nutcracker."

Throughout its history, the RWB has been a dance leader, recording innumerable firsts. It developed the concept of the regional ballet festival in the 1940s. It was the first Western company to perform in Cuba after the revolution. It received gold medals at the International Ballet Festival in Paris in 1968 and that same year became the first Canadian company to tour Russia and Czechoslovakia.

The Company is also noted for its artistic excellence. In 1980, principal dancers Evelyn Hart and David Peregrine won bronze medals at the World Festival Ballet Concours in Japan. RWB members Hart, Peregrine, music director Earl Stafford and choreographer Norbert Vesak also won medals at the International Ballet Competition held in Varna, Bulgaria in the same year. In 1982, Arnold Spohr was awarded the Annual Dance Magazine award for his outstanding contributions to the world of dance. In 1983, he was presented with the prestigious Diplome d'Honneur by the Canadian Conference of the Arts, and received the Dance in Canada Award in 1984.

A return visit to Bulgaria in 1990 resulted in more accolades for the RWB. Principal dancer Laura Graham was awarded a silver medal in the senior women's category, while non-competing partner Stephen Hyde received a Certificate of Excellence; and soloist Mark Godden was presented with a second prize for new choreography for "Myth" at the 14th International Ballet Competition in Varna. Other Company members Suzanne Rubio and Mark Godden won third and second prizes, respectively, and Company pianist Barbara Riske was awarded Best Pianist at the 1991 Second International Ballet Competition in Helsinki, Finland.

The repertoire of the Royal Winnipeg Ballet embraces a wide array of dance styles which includes classical story ballets and an intriguing collection of shorter dances. The 61-year-old ballet company achieves a fine balance between the classical traditions of Europe and the boldness of contemporary ballet, which in turn has produced a style unique to itself. Works to be found in the RWB repertoire include those of Sir Frederick Ashton, Oscar Araiz, George Balanchine, John Cranko, Jiri Kylian, Agnes de Mille, Vincente Nebrada, John Neumeier, Antony Tudor, Hans van Manen and Rudi van Dantzig.

Repertoire for the RWB's CCP performance consists of George Balanchine's choreographic work "Concerto Barocco," a vivid interpretation of Bach's Concert for Two Violins in D Minor exemplifying American classical style in its extraordinary poetry, pristine beauty and musicality; Val Caniparoli's Act I Pas de Deux from "Lady of the Camellias"; Mark Godden's "As Above, So Below," a ballet based on a quantum physics theory; and Mark Godden's "Miroirs," a five-part ballet which mirrors Maurice Ravel's beautiful piano score.

Tickets are available at CCP and Ticketworld National Bookstore outlets. Call the CCP Box Office at 832-3704/832-1125 local 1409; CCP Marketing Dept. at 832-3878/551-7930/812-1125 loc. 1803-1805, CCP Dance Division at 8831-3415/832-1125, local 1602-1603.

"IMPROMPTU" by Evelyn Hart and Jesus Corrales

PHOTO: DAVID COOPER

Robinsons opens new outlet in Cavite

ROBINSONS Department Store (RDS) pursues its expansion plans this year with the opening of its newest branch in General Trias, Cavite. Located at Waltermart Center, Barrio Manggahan, the new store is the first RDS to be inaugurated this year.

The grand opening and blessing rites are scheduled today at 11 a.m. Guests of honor are Christopher Tiu of Bobson, Miles Narciso of Triumph, Rose Sia of Ivy League, Nelson Chua of Freego, Mr. and Ms Wilson Lim of Waltermart, Fely Embrador of FME Card, and Elizabeth Gokongwei and James L. Go of Robinsons Retail Group. The event will also be graced by RDS officials and employees, concessionaires and members of the press.

RDS General Trias will carry a wide array of quality merchandise for the whole family, including men's, women's and children's apparel, cosmetics, shoes and bags. Over 40 of the country's most popular brands will be sold in the new store, making shopping more enjoyable and convenient.

RDS is also scheduled to open a branch in Novaliches on July 1 and in Pasig on Aug. 1. Watch out for the opening of more RDS branches this year.

'F' LADIES

Shopping aficionados can now realize their dreams on "F!" The Singapore Tourism Board (STB) is in search for "neophyte" and "veteran" shoppers of Singapore. Veteran shoppers may write to "F!" about their best and most memorable shopping experience in Singapore and include a picture to prove it. Neophytes need not worry; all they have to do is write to "F!" explaining why they absolutely must go to Singapore for GSS (Great Singapore Sale) 2001 and endorse a current photo. The most convincing and outrageous letters will be chosen and announced on "F!'s" June 16 episode. The two winners will be sent on an all-expense-paid trip to Singapore for GSS 2001. It's time to "shop 'til you drop!" Watch out for details on "F!" starting June 2, 11 p.m. on Channel 2. Smart and sassy "F!" hosts Cher Calvin, Angel Aquino and Daphne Oseña lead the way in lifestyle news, from food and fashion to other interesting consumer-oriented news. The deadline for submission of entries will be on June 12. Call 636-0258.

Value-for-money shopping spree at Festival Supermall

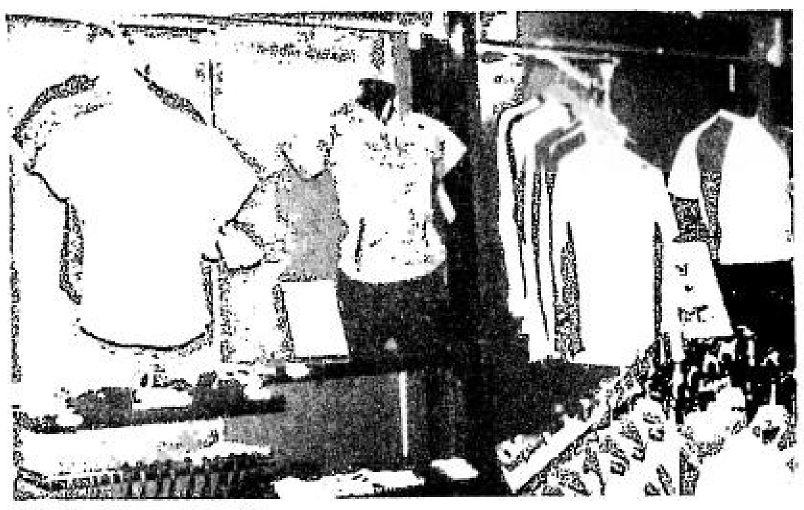
IN METRO Manila alone, the present competition among shoppers' purchasing power has never been more intense.

Remove your stress and indulge yourself with wise buys and best deals with unique shopping packages at the Tri-Weekend Sale of Festival Supermall on June 1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10 and 15, 16 and 17.

The super sale offers an extremely wide range of items to suit every taste and budget: 50 percent on women and men's fashion apparel and accessories, shoes, eyewear, household items and children's clothing, and 40 percent on dress and sports watches, ceramic products and sporting goods.

Whether you prefer to shop in luxurious, air-conditioned comfort or forge through busy outdoor flea markets and handicraft stalls, Festival Supermall is a mecca of the best bargains in Metro Manila.

More than just a shopping mall, Festival Supermall is a one-stop shop with limitless choices to serve everyone's needs. So, relax, feel good and enjoy at Festival Supermall, where value-for-money shopping is at its peak.


COOL Items on sale

Feminine sensibility of Props

FASHION that's all about the life and style of a lady is what perfectly describes Props. Based on a relaxed, outgoing attitude toward life and unique individual style, Props features a lifestyle collection of easy-to-wear pieces rich with feminine sensibility.

Today, Props ushers our ladies into the best part of wearing clothes that fit and flatter yet reflect a style all their own. For ladies who are on the lookout for fashion pieces which they can mix and match while creating their own sense of style, Props offers tanks, blouses and halters paired with pedal pushers, long and short skirts adapted to fit nearly all fashion types—smart, cool, sweet, sexy or chic.

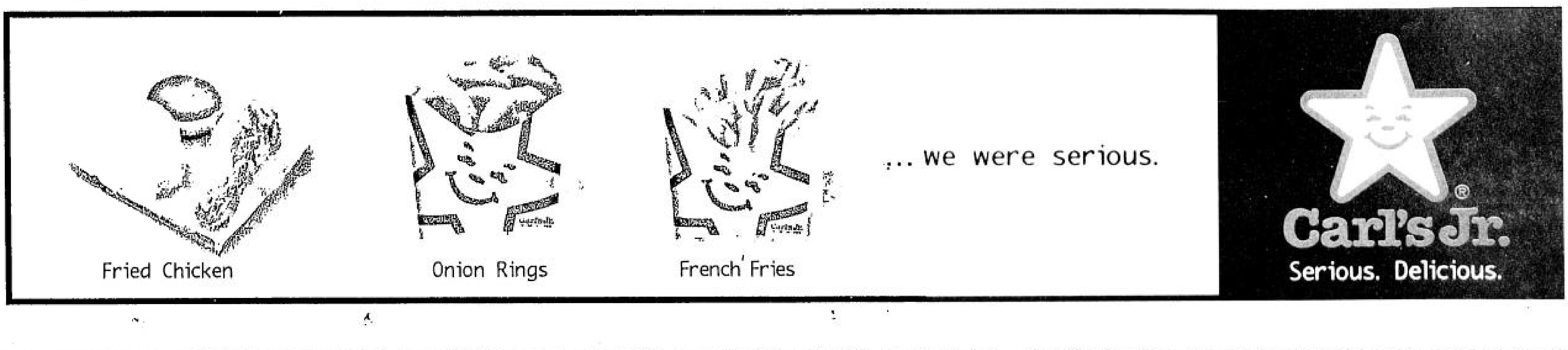
Props is available at the ABS-CBN Studio Store with outlets in Isetann Cinerama Complex, Recto, Manila; SM City Cebu, SM City Bacoor, Gaisano Countrymall, Banilad, Cebu City, and Gaisano City Mall, Cagayan de Oro City; and ABS-CBN Direct Sales Service Center with outlets in Quezon City, Las Piñas, Mandaluyong, Cabanatuan; Angeles City, Pampanga; Mandaue, Cagayan de Oro; Sta. Rosa, Laguna and Cavite City. Call 415-2272, locals 3601-3629 or e-mail consumer_products@abs-cbn.com

TOP BRASS

The trendy military look has been interpreted by Silk Cocoon with a soft and feminine touch in avocado, khaki and olive combined with elegant shades of gold. The fabrics used range from *piña* silk, to soft satins matched with shantungs and with details of light beading. Silk Cocoon is at the New World Hotel Shopping Arcade, Esperanza Street corner Makati Avenue, Makati City. Call 811-6856.

WHITE heats up with strappy tops and basic bottoms by Silk Cocoon for that sunset cocktail (or even wedding!) on the beach in a stunning *abaca* silk fabric enhanced with light beading.

MODEL: JOEY MEAD
PHOTO: XANDY ANGELES


Fried Chicken
Onion Rings
French Fries
... we were serious.
Carl's Jr.
Serious. Delicious.

Power Plant Cinema showcases 'Harry Potter' trailer

CATCH the magic of Harry Potter when the movie trailer hits the big screens of Power Plant Cinemas 5 and 6 on June 2 at 11 a.m.

Get to be the first to have a sneak peek at "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone" trailer.

Lucky customers at the Back-to-School Bazaar at the North Court of Power Plant Mall can win one Power Plant Cinema ticket until June 2. School supplies, distinctive stationery items, school bags and more from King Jim, Quill and other selected brands are featured at the bazaar.

The full-length film "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone," based on JK Rowling's best-selling children's series, is set for international release later this year. Its teaser trailer will be shown once only in selected theaters.

The Power Plant Mall is open 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Mondays to Thursdays, and 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays. Its recently opened attraction is the 26-lane Power Bowl at the 3/L, which also features billiards and Windows Café.

Dusit offers special package for waterless weekend

WORRIED about a waterless weekend? On June 1-4, many parts of Metro Manila will experience a dry spell due to the upgrading of Maynilad and Manila Water Systems. Of course one can endure all that heat and hassle. Or, one can check in at the Dusit instead.

For a package rate of P2,900 net (inclusive of customary service charge and applicable government taxes), Dusit Hotel Nikko offers an overnight accommodation for two adults and two children in a Deluxe Room, buffet breakfast for two persons at the Café, upgrade to a Deluxe Executive Room (subject to availability), late check-out of 3 p.m., complimentary local calls, two bottles of mineral water in the room and complimentary use of health club facilities and swimming pool. Staying for an extra consecutive night costs only an additional P1,999 net. This special package is applicable only to local residents and expatriates with valid ACR.

Call 867-333 local 3131 or e-mail resvnmnl@dusit.com.

MSB Foundation sale promotes tree planting

GOINGS-ON

THE MANILA Seedling Bank Foundation holds a "Bagsak Presyo 2001" planting season sale, June 1-30, with products discounted by as much as 60 percent. The sale is to promote tree planting and enhance the current state of environment. Tree planting will contribute to avert pollution and the need for a greening campaign for public awareness between people's health and the state of environment. Among the seedlings to be sold are: guapple (P5), *guyabano* (P6), *langka* (P6), carabao mango (P7.50), auri (P6), mangium (P6), rain tree (P7), mahogany (P7), narra (P7), *bagras* (P15). MSBF is open 8 a.m-6 p.m. Call 929-9312 or 924-7001/02.

THE SAN Juan de Dios Hospital recently celebrated its 423rd foundation anniversary with the inauguration of the Acute Stroke Unit located at the 2?/F Main Hospital Building. Equipped with Toshiba's state-of-the-art digital systems, the Acute Stroke Unit serves as a catalyst toward the hospital's mission of providing quality service to indigent patients equal to those offered to "paying" patients. Guests include Dr. Coven Cuanang (center), president of the Philippine Stroke Society, assisted by Dr. Mirla Sevenno (right), medical director of San Juan de Dios Hospital, and Dr. Alejandro Diaz (left), head of the Acute Stroke Unit.

STORYTELLING SESSIONS. The weekly PBBY Storytelling Hour continues at Museo Pambata every Friday, 10-11 a.m. Visiting school groups will enjoy this special treat by these featured storytellers: June 1, Evangelize Efvina, an optometrist and project coordinator for the Shekinah Christian Church, and also involved in nutrition feeding and storytelling; June 8, Frances Kristine Canon, this year's PBBY Salanga Writers grand prize winner for her story, "Bakit Matagal ang Sundo Ko?"; June 15, Luchi Asuncion, the country manager of Integrated Marketing Services Inc., June 22, Vivien Mangalindan, a lifestyle modification consultant and speaker and a stress therapist; June 29, Jeannic Apolintisima, the treasurer of Alitaptap, storytellers club of Museo Pambata, and a seasoned storyteller in several communities in Metro Manila, who has also trained community leaders and parents in the art. Call 523-1797 to -98.

SPIRITUAL EVENT. Lambat-Saya, Bahaghari ng Buhay (Magkakaisang Grupo Espirituwal ng Inang Pilipinas) marks this year's birth anniversary celebration of Dr. Jose Rizal with a special three-day spiritual event dubbed "Tindig Inang Maharlika, Pinagpalang Bayan at Lahi ni Dr. Jose Rizal," on June 17-19 at the Luneta. The event features "Dugtungan ng mga Awit," "Pagsasaysay at Paghahayag," "Mga Himig at Sayaw ng Lemuria," "Mabuhay ng Dahil sa Iyo Manifesto Toward a More Positive Lupang Hinirang" and "Tinig ng Kapangyarihan."

SELF-DEFENSE COURSE. The Defense Specialists are offering a four-session Woman's Way Course on practical solutions (self-defense) and real-life situations to interested parties. The course will cover basic useful strikes, hand-to-hand defense, anti-rape techniques and some bonus lessons. Classes will be held Saturdays (June 2, 9, 16 and 23), 2-4 p.m. Call 532-6395/8807.

WRITING WORKSHOP. Beginning June 14, Filipinas Heritage Library (FHL) will host "Travel Tales," a travel writing workshop to be facilitated by Kristine Fonacier, travel writer, editor in chief of MTV Ink magazine and music editor of Pulp magazine. The workshops will be held on June 14, 21, 28, July 5 and 12, 5:45-8:30 p.m. at the FHL Reading Room. Workshop fee is P2,500 (inclusive of materials and certificates). Call 892-1801.

'UNIPREP' SEMINAR. Kalinangan Youth Foundation Inc. (Kalfi), Calabarzon Chapter, a nonstock, nonprofit corporation which promotes activities that foster intellectual, cultural and spiritual development of university women, will sponsor a seminar on Introduction to College Life on June 9, 8:30 a.m.-12 nn at Anihan School, Bo. Tulo, Calamba, Laguna. Dubbed "Uniprep," it is designed to equip incoming female freshmen students with the necessary skills and attitudes to enable them to make the most of their university life. Call (049) 545-2376 or 545-1884.

NESTLÉ YOGURT: SO TASTY YET SO HEALTHY!

Healthy living is often easier said than done. Sometimes it feels like a chore. We all know the importance of regular exercise and eating a well-balanced diet; we all realize the need to cut down on our vices—but resolutions like these are quite hard to keep.

Now, being healthy doesn't need to be difficult. There is a tasty, creamy, and most importantly, simple way to good health—yogurt! Just open a cup, spoon it, and enjoy!

What is yogurt anyway? Yogurt is actually milk filled with beneficial microbes. Or simply put, it's *milk made better*. You get all the nutrients found in milk - calcium, protein and vitamins-and much more

The live microorganisms in yogurt aid digestion as well as fight disease-causing bacteria. Just to make it more concrete, our intestine is home to all sorts of good and bad bacteria. Once the bad outnumber the good (which happens when we maintain a poor diet, for example), we become prone to stomach problems We need sufficient numbers of good bacteria so we have less chances of suffering from constipation and diarrhea

Another key benefit of the good bacteria in yogurt is that they help the body make better use of lactose. Great news if you are lactose intolerant, because now you can enjoy all the benefits of milk without getting an upset tummy.

Lastly, did you know that there's a link between eating yogurt and longevity? Ilya Metchnikoff, a Nobel Prize winning scientist, established this link by studying the Bulgarians' penchant for eating yogurt and their uncanny long life.

So what are you waiting for? You have no more excuses for not being healthy. Take Nestle Yogurt. It has all the benefits of live bacteria and milk. And it comes in five terrific flavors—Mango, Strawberry, Fruit Basket, Berry Mix and Natural. Go ahead and enjoy the goodness of real yogurt today Indeed, Nestle Yogurt is so delicious it's hard to believe it's healthful as well!

OUR APOLOGIES. WE COULDN'T FIND A MODEL
WHO HAD THE COMPOSURE TO SMILE
WHILE RELISHING OUR DELICIOUS, HEALTHY YOGURT.
ALL OF THEM JUST GOBBLED IT UP.

Nestlé
FRUIT Yogurt
Mango

For more info, visit www.yogurt.com.ph

Nestlé Yogurt is irresistibly creamy and delicious. But get this -- it also contains all the goodness of milk, fruit and live microorganisms for good health.

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logos

signs

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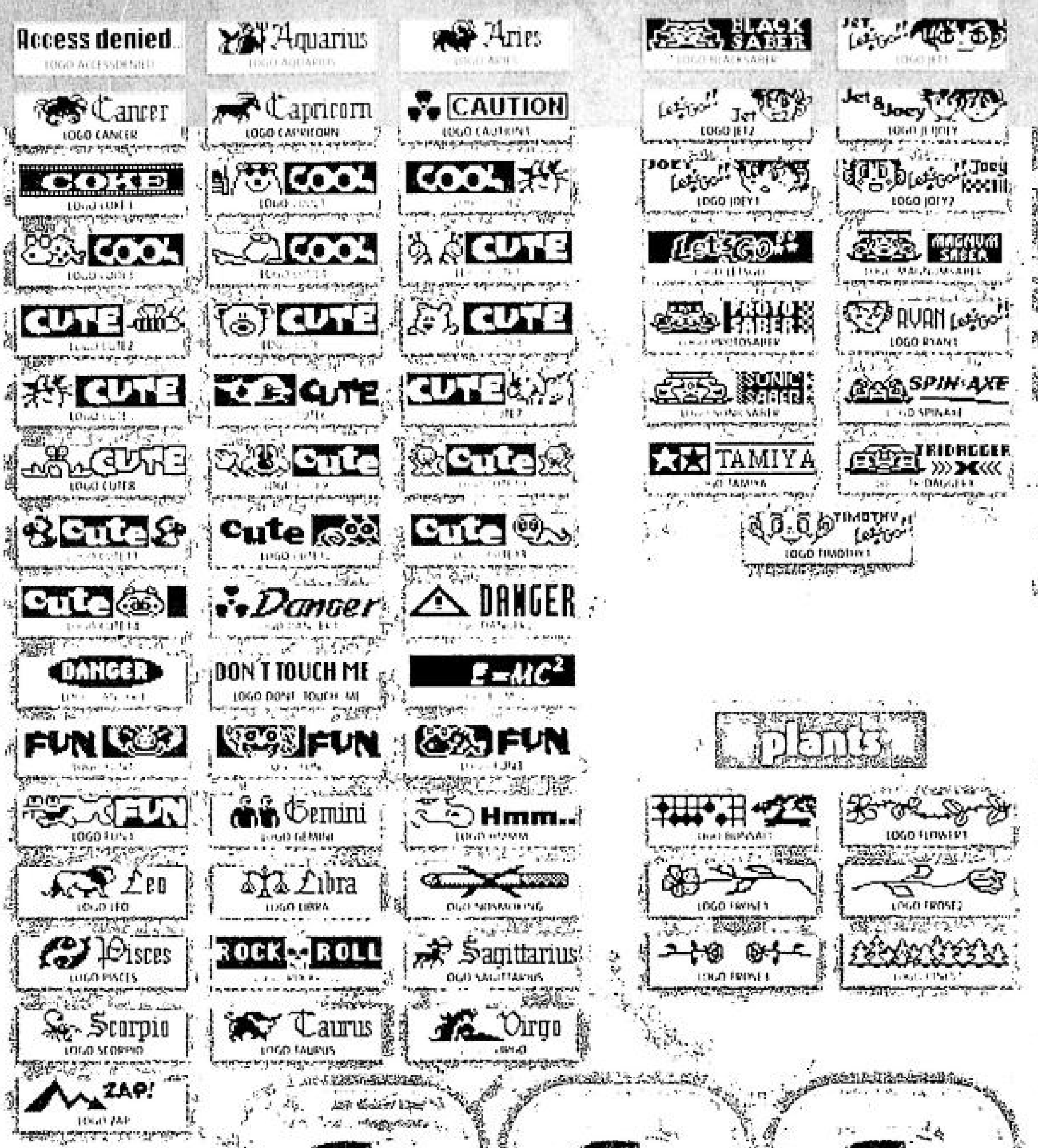
Access denied
LOGO ACCESSDENIED
Aquarius
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Cancer
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CAUTION
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CUTE
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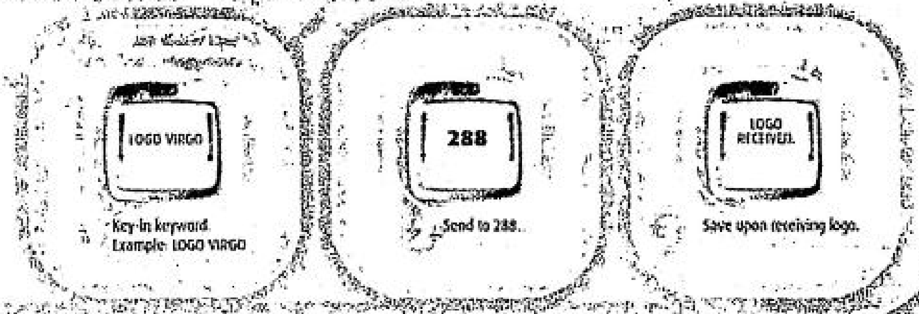
DANGER
Danger
DON'T TOUCH ME
LOGO DONT TOUCH ME
E=MC²
FUN
LOGO FUN
Gemini
LOGO GEMINI
Hmm..
Leo
LOGO LEO
Libra
LOGO LIBRA
Pisces
LOGO PISCES
ROCK ROLL
Sagittarius
Scorpio
LOGO SCORPIO
Taurus
LOGO TAURUS
Virgo
ZAP!
LOGO ZAP
BLACK SABER
JET Let's Go!!
Let's Go!! Jet
LOGO JET2
Jet & Joey
JOEY Let's Go!!
LOGO JOEY1
Let's Go!! Joey
LOGO JOEY2
Let's GO!!
MAGNUM SABER
PROTO SABER
RYAN Let's Go!!
LOGO RYANS
SONIC SABER
SPIN-AXE
TAMIYA
TRIDAGGER
TIMOTHY Let's Go!!
LOGO TIMOTHY
LOGO FLOWER1
LOGO ROSE2


LOGO VIRGO
288
LOGO RECEIVED.

Key-in keyword. Example: LOGO VIRGO

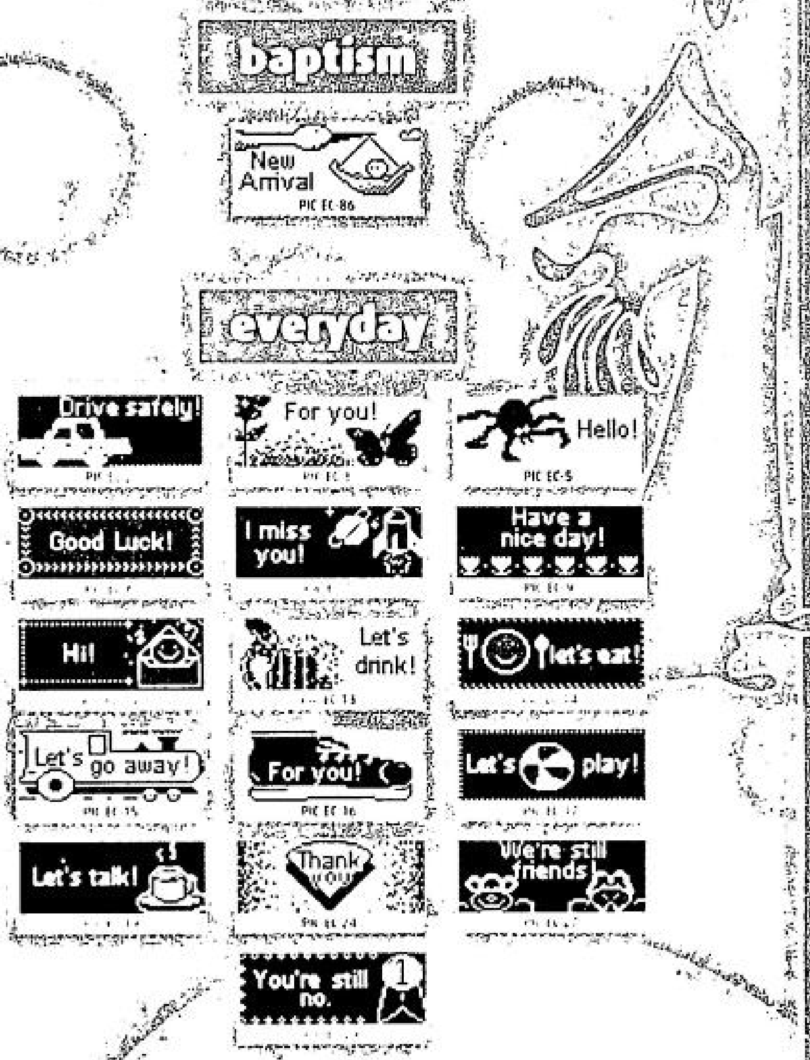
Send to 288.

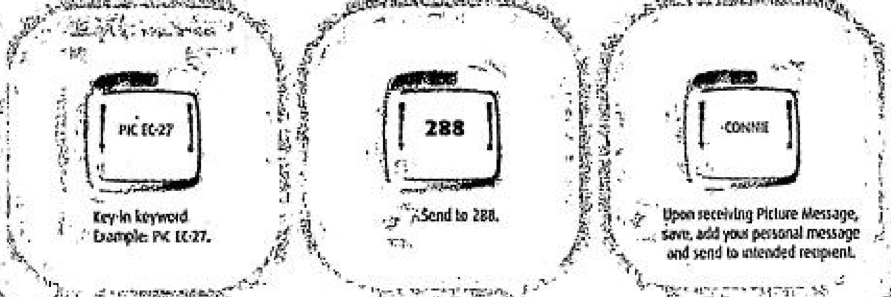
Save upon receiving logo.

picture messages

baptism

everyday


New Arrival
PIC EC-86
Drive safely!
For you!
Hello!
PIC EC-5
Good Luck!
I miss you!
Have a nice day!
Hi!
Let's drink!
let's eat!
Let's go away!
PIC EC-15
For you!
PIC EC-16
Let's play!
Let's talk!
Thank you
PIC EC-24
We're still friends
You're still no. 1


PIC EC-27
288
CONNIE

Key-in keyword Example: PIC EC-27.

Send to 288.

Upon receiving Picture Message, save, add your personal message and send to intended recipient.

tones

oldies

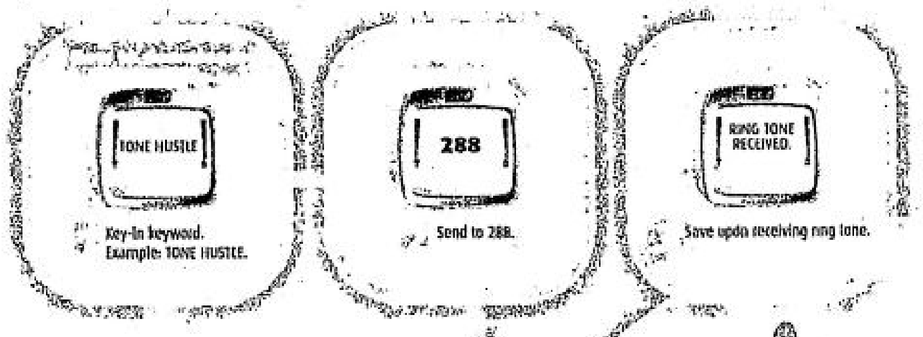
description	artist/composer	keyword
El Condor	Pasa Cozens	TONE ELCONDOR
Fantasy	Earth Wind and Fire	TONE FANTASY
It Might Be You	Stephen Bishop	TONE MYTBU
Light My Fire	The Doors	TONE MAFIRE
New York New York	Frank Sinatra	TONE NEWYORK
Proud Mary	Credence Clearwater Revival	TONE PROUDMRY
Rock Around The Clock	Billy Haley & The Comets	TONE ROCKAROU
The Hustle	Van McCoy	TONE HUSTLE
You Needed Me	Anne Murray	TONE UNIDME

opm

description	artist/composer	keyword
Burn	Kulay	TONE BURN
Delicious	Kulay	TONE DELICIOUS
Mister Love	South Border	TONE MRLOVE
Remember Me	DaPULIS!	TONE REMBERME

party

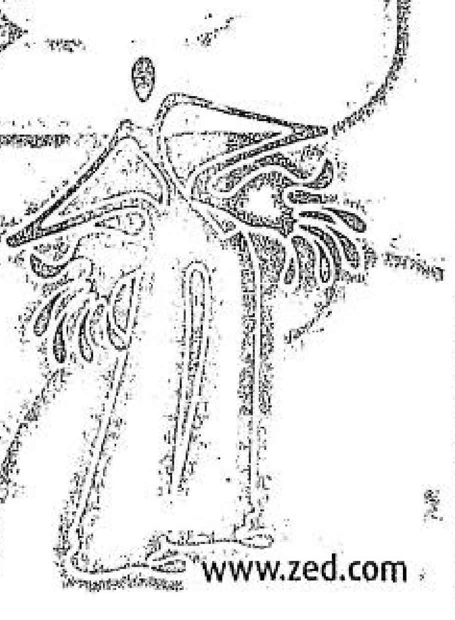
description	artist/composer	keyword
Better off Allone	Alice Dee Jay	TONE OFFALONE
Big Pimpin	Jay-Z	TONE BIGPIMPN
Children	Robert Miles	TONE CHLDRN
Conga	Miami Sound Machine	TONE CONGA
Love Shack	B52's	TONE LUVSHAK
Sweet like Chocolate	Shanks	TONE CHOCLT
Together Again	Janet Jackson	TONE 2GDERAGN
Vengabus(We Like to Party)	Venga Boys	TONE VENGABUS


TONE HUSTLE
288
RING TONE RECEIVED.

Key-in keyword. Example: TONE HUSTLE.

Send to 288.

Save upon receiving ring tone.



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Home LIFESTYLE

Thailand's royal house of horticulture

The Queen Sirikit Botanical Gardens is a showcase of Thailand's rich biodiversity and an anthem to the environment

TEXT AND PHOTOS
BY ADRIAN V. LIZARES

CHIANG MAI. Not many Filipino travelers venture into this northern part of Thailand. The average Pinoy will definitely choose the capital, the extremely cosmopolitan Bangkok, for shopping. Chiang Mai, in contrast, will appeal to the adventurous "welt bummler" (this is the original '80s word coined for world traveler) who wants to roam and discover.

Chiang Mai is accessible by train, an efficient bus service, or maybe a hired limo. You may opt to take any Thai Airways flight (Chiang Mai is 55 minutes from Bangkok). Chiang Mai airport is

THAILAND'S/p.G2

Beauty starts with a hot water bath.
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Fully Automatic Water Heater
with Built-In ELCB
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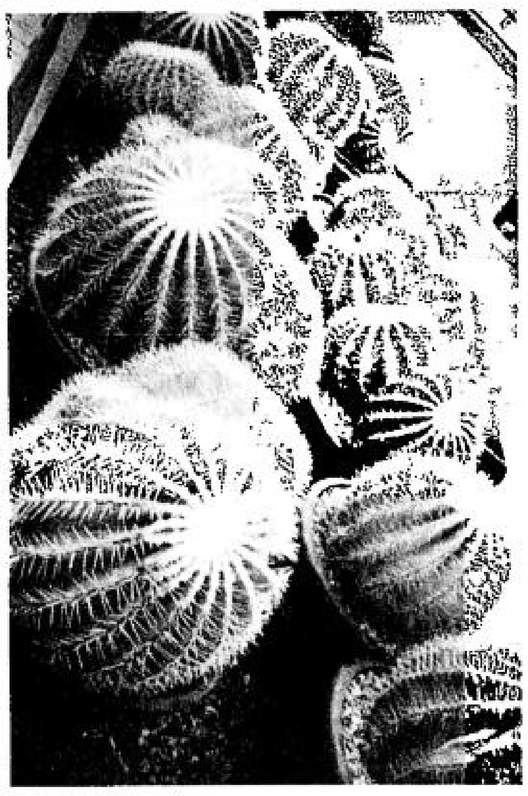
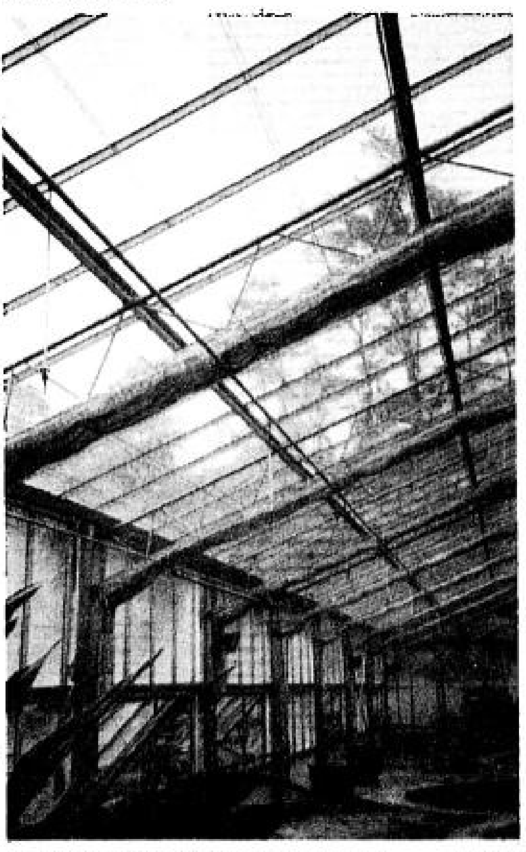
Coupon
for Cash Buyers
ARIVA
WATER HEATERS

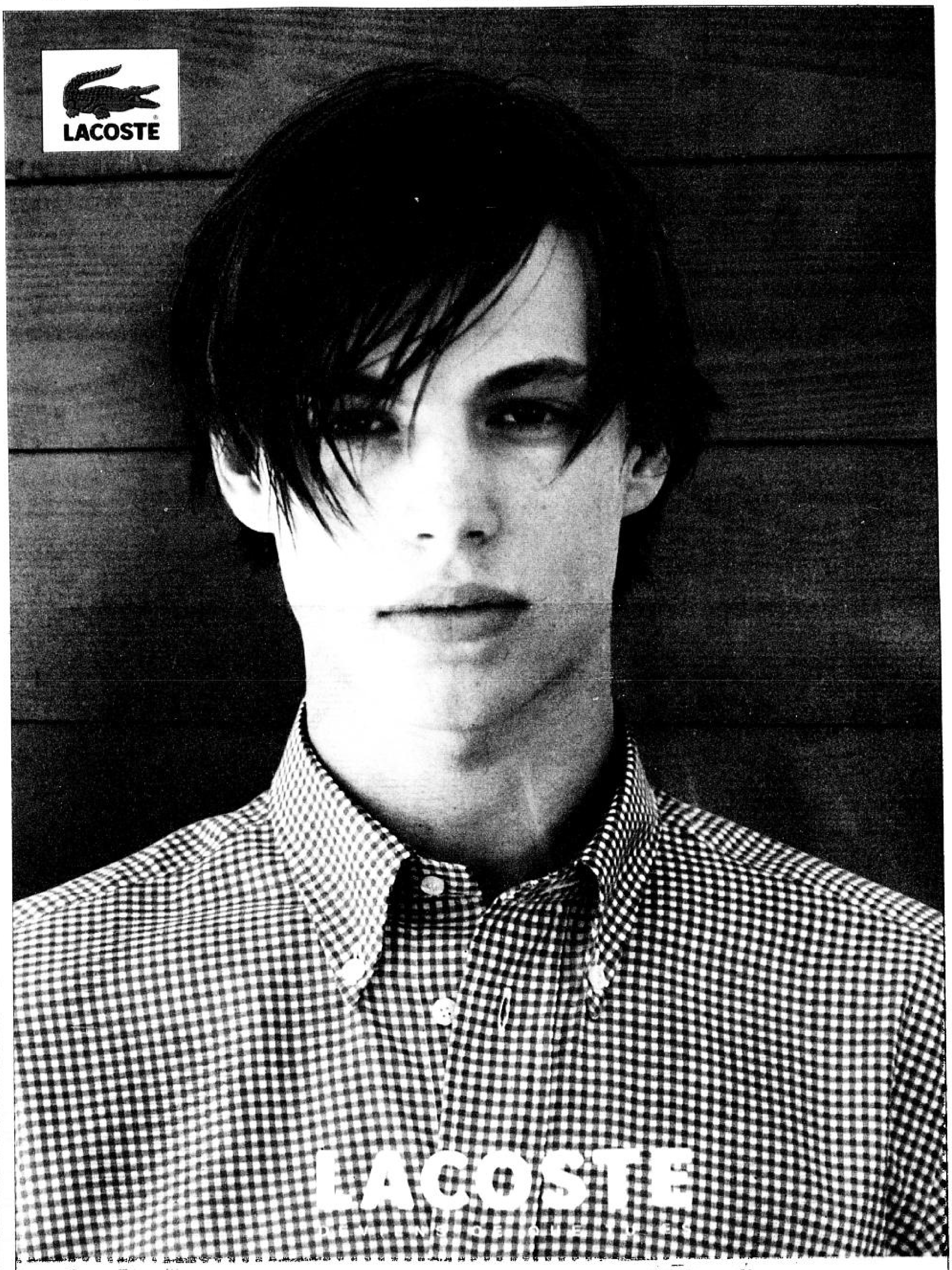
A SWIRL of prickly plants



BARREL cacti



STATE-OF-THE-ART hot house


LACOSTE
LACOSTE
DEVIENS CE QUE TU ES

RUSTAN'S MAKATI • RUSTAN'S TOWER • RUSTAN'S CUBAO • RUSTAN'S HARRISON PLAZA • RUSTAN'S AYALA-CEBU
GREENBELT MALL, AYALA CENTER • SM MEGAMALL, BLDG. B • THE STORE (GRAND BOULEVARD HOTEL)
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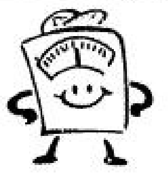
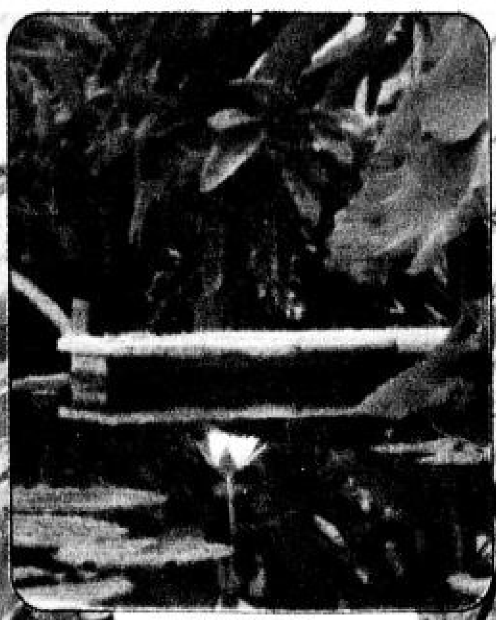
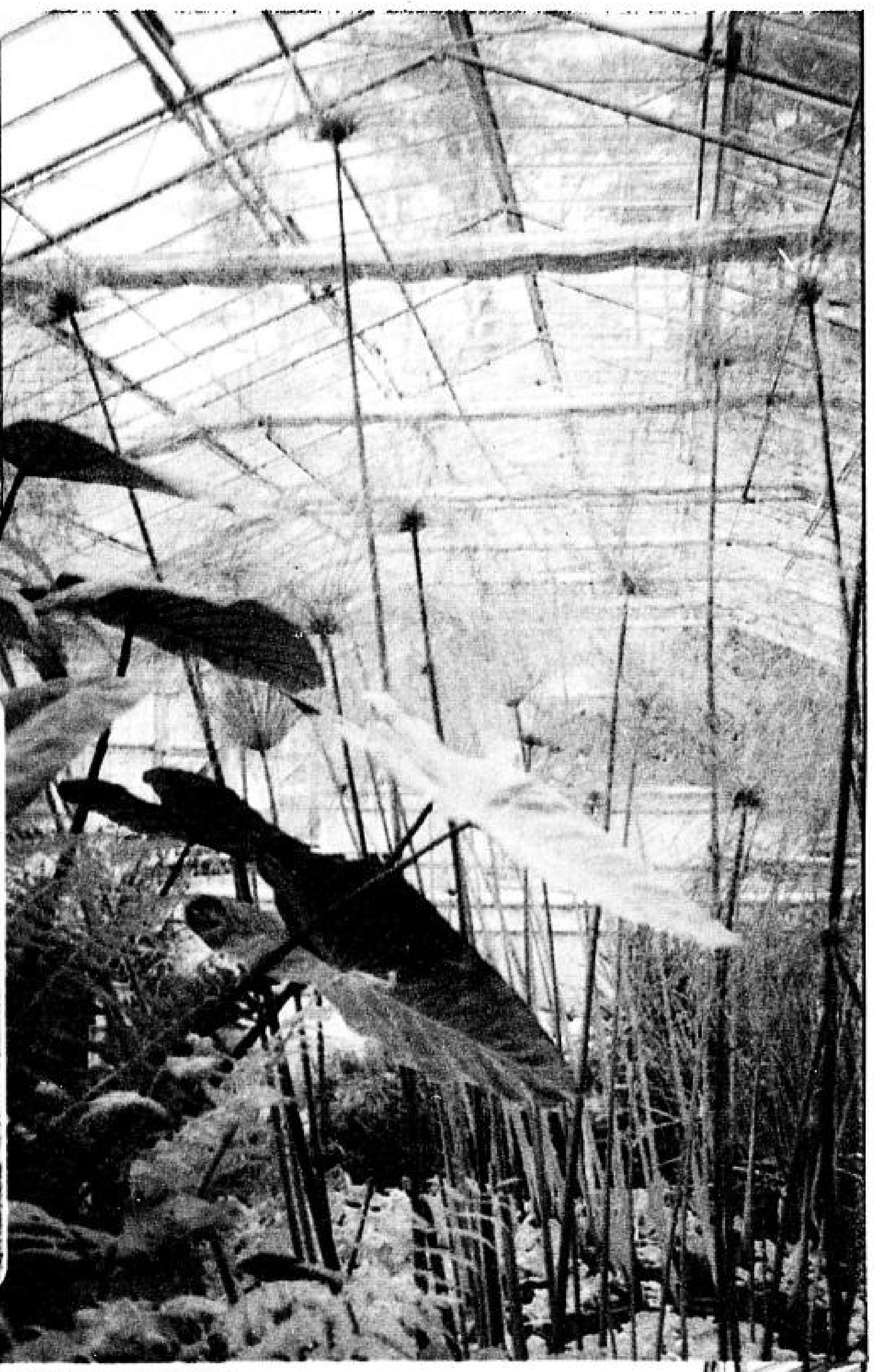


THE POND at the Rain Forest glasshouse are planted with aquatic weeds


A SOLITARY nymphea (foreground) and heliconias (background)

A DIOON grown to perfection. Definitely collector's dream.


AQUATIC plants glasshouse

Thailand's royal house of horticulture

(From page G1)

international with other carriers flying in from neighboring regions, except Manila. The province is rich in culture and the arts. It has everything Bangkok has to offer except the traffic. The food and shopping are inexpensive. I had been there once before and I must admit, it has changed quite a bit due to well organized tourism programs by the forward-looking Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT).

There are many activities in this charming walled city spanning centuries of development. Edifices of national and cultural importance are intact. The TAT has a website (listed below) where one can gather all the needed information about Chiang Mai. Keep in mind that the peak season is September to January, during which the night market is packed with shoppers. Haggling is standard.

Chiang Mai used to be a kingdom. The descendants of the old royalty and nobility are active in all sectors of society. In fact, a lot of projects are established by royal decrees, mainly emanating from the court of King Bhumibol and Queen Sirikit. One of these noble projects is the Queen Sirikit Botanical Gardens.

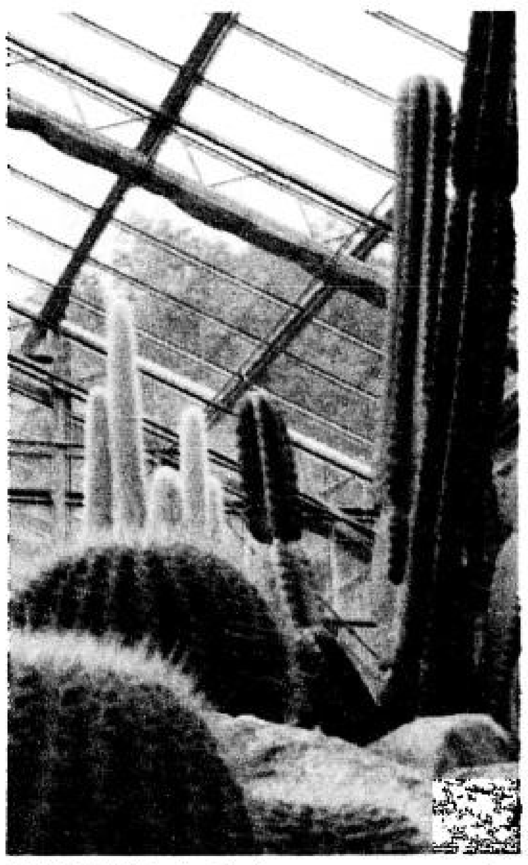
Initially, I had thought the garden was in Chiang Rai, but much to my delight, I learned it was just 30 km from our hotel. And what an awe-inspiring place it turned out to be. It consisted of modern tropical glasshouses spread out over hundreds of hectares of virgin forest on the hills of the Mae Rim district.

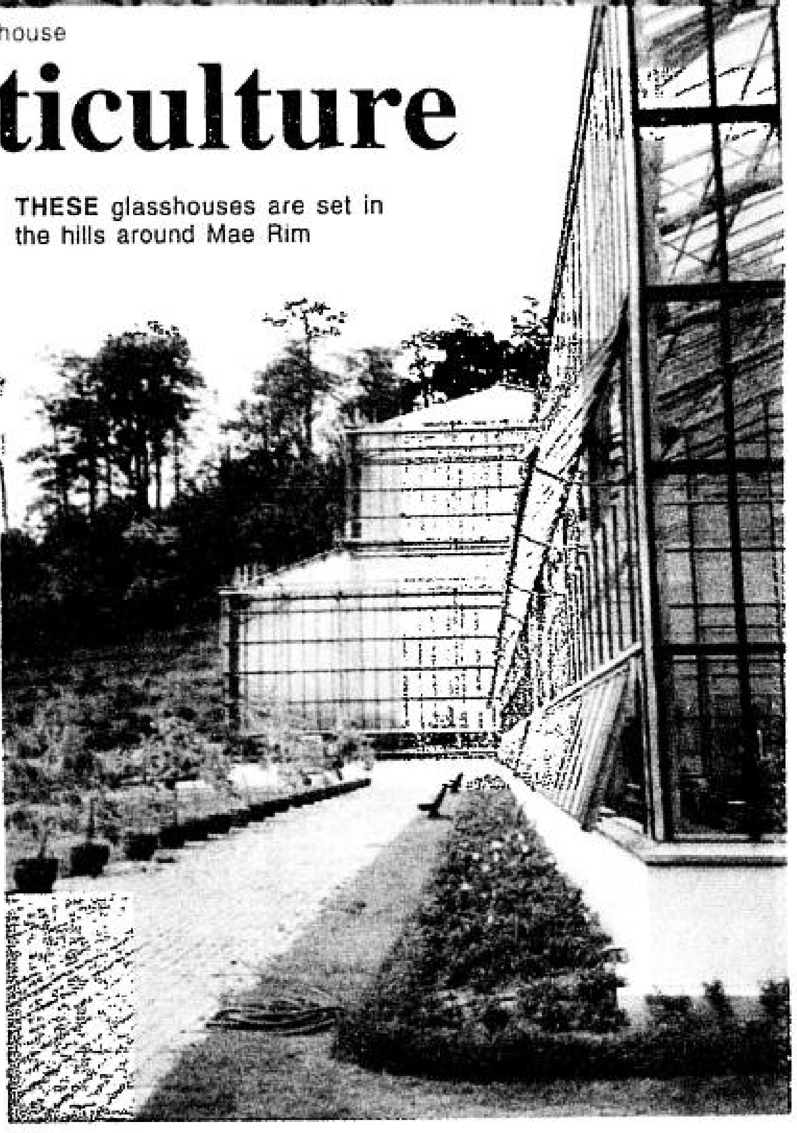
Nineteen ninety-two marked the 60th birthday of Queen Sirikit. It was then that the Botanical Garden Association of Thailand (BGAT) was founded by royal decree in honor of Her Majesty. The main aim was to collect various plants and vegetation, with emphasis on rare and endangered species of flora native to Thailand, for further planting and propagation. In 1994, the Queen granted her permission to name it the Queen Sirikit Botanical Garden.

The garden is located at the Doi Pui-Suthep on the Mae Rim-Samoeng road. Three major waterways converge in the area, providing water to the garden all year round. The climate is ideally suited. It provides a working environment for botanical study, with research facilities and horticultural data banks.

Horticultural and botanical groups have collected Thai plants for research, as well as conserve those species at risk in the wild. Plants under threat from commerce, like orchids and medicinal plants, are mass-propagated. The library is open to researchers and the general public.

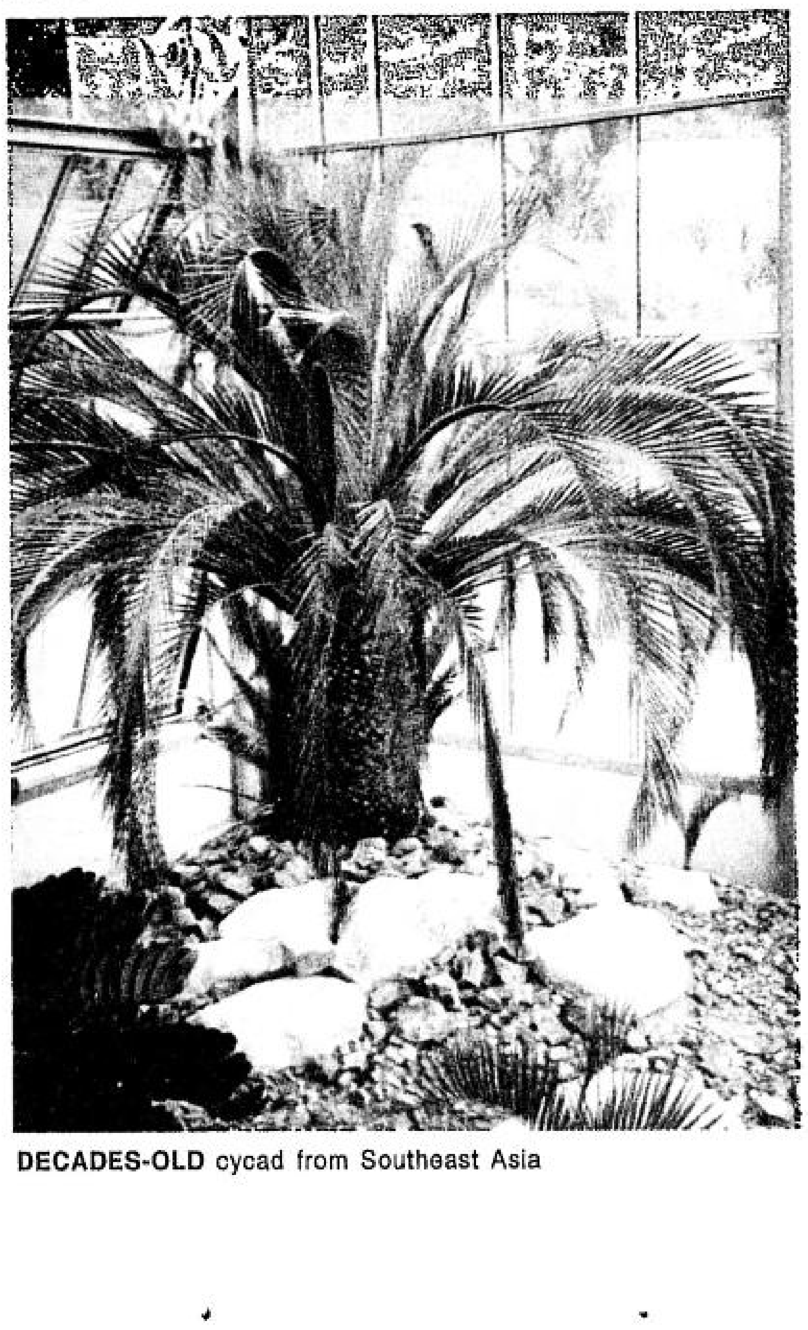
BGAT is definitely not into conservation and propagation for superficial or commercial reasons. Filipinos should learn from the Thai example. The environment should not be ignored. It should not be abused. It should be saved for future generations.


XERISCAPE plants from regions around the world.


THESE glasshouses are set in the hills around Mae Rim

THE HUGE pad of the Amazon Lily (foreground)

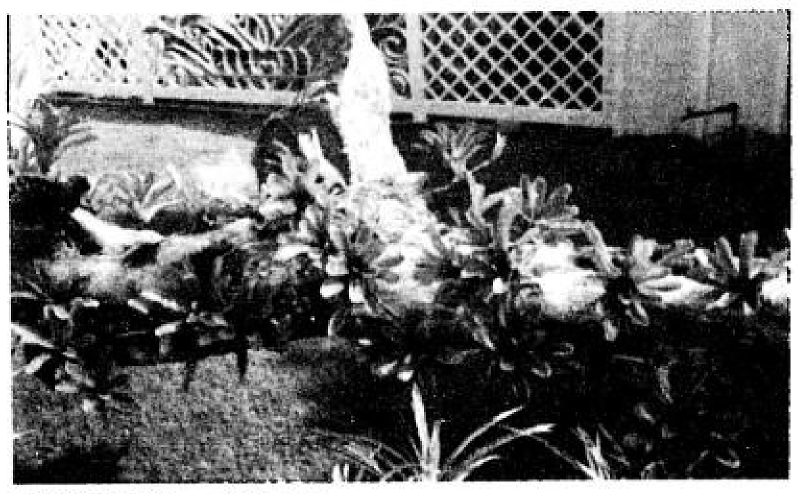
MISTING in the biggest glasshouse where rainforest species are housed. The red palm must be about 50 years old.


DECADES-OLD cycad from Southeast Asia

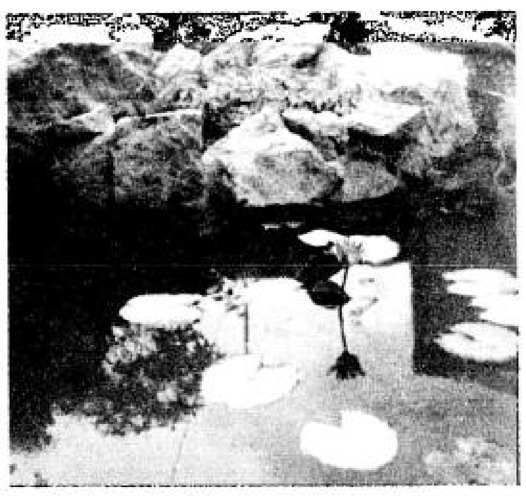
WATER garden is the forte of Lorenz Inos.

Young landscape artist draws inspiration from nature

Lorenzo Inos is slowly transforming the garden landscape of Northern Philippines with his nature-inspired takes on space and greenery



BROMELIADS on driftwood



WATER garden has natural rocks.

ORNAMENTAL pineapple bromeliad

BY TITA V. GIRON
PHOTOS BY BETOY JOHNSON

IF you have an eye for good landscape, you cannot possibly miss the growing number of spruced-up gardens we saw recently in Cabanatuan and Talavera, Nueva Ecija. The play of colors, waterfall and the soft landscaping style give the gardens a mark of identity, something we hardly expected to find in the province that is more known for its vast rice fields and granaries.

Surprisingly, the genius behind the beautiful garden designs is not a veteran landscaper but a young computer science graduate in his mid-20s. Lorenz R. Inos, although relatively new in the highly competitive field of landscaping, is already changing trends and proving to one and all that one doesn't need to advertise his work to be known.

His gardens and the praises of his satisfied customers are his best advertisement.

"Lorenz Inos has inborn talent and his love for nature are his assets," seasoned landscaper and bonsai master Modesto Manglicmot Jr. spoke of the young landscaper who happens to be his protégé. "His other advantage is his youth. He also enjoys landscaping and he doesn't charge exorbitant prices for his job," added the mentor who taught Lorenz the basics of bonsai art and advised him about landscaping.

By word of mouth, the landscaping skill of Lorenz has spread to nearby towns. He has landscaped several gardens in La Union, Tarlac, Nueva Vizcaya, and Parañaque. And after fixing the garden of Mayor Estelita Aquino of Moncada, Tarlac, and the town's municipal hall park, he recently completed work on the nature garden of a mountain resort in Nueva Vizcaya.

Groupings

When we saw him last week, he was putting the finishing touches to the impressive garden in the new house of town businessman Rolly San Pedro. He used full-grown palms and a selection of colorful bromeliads to draw attention away from the unsightly surrounding beyond the property boundary. We noted his fondness for mounds and uneven terrain.

"I love to use groupings of bromeliads for color and effect," Lorenz explained. "They are hardy plants that don't demand too much care," he added. Bromeliads are his trademark. He mounts them on pieces of driftwood that are arranged horizontally, or he groups them in pocket gardens where empty spaces are filled generously with ground cover and palms.

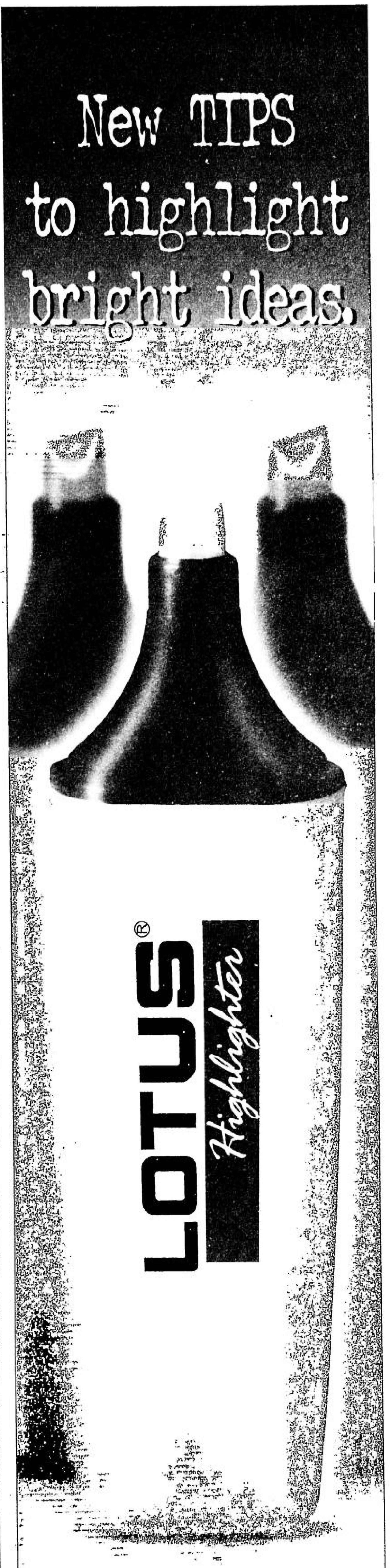
Surprisingly, his bromeliads are unblemished and healthy.

We wondered where Lorenz was getting all the bromeliads he used generously for his landscaping projects. It would cost a fortune to haul them from the nurseries of Manila's bromeliad growers to Nueva Ecija, a good four hours drive.

YOUNG/ p.G4

THE FAMILY that landscapes together: Lorenzo Inos Sr., Jan, Lorenz and niece Karla Kristina

VIEW of pocket garden from the receiving room



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Young landscape artist draws inspiration from nature

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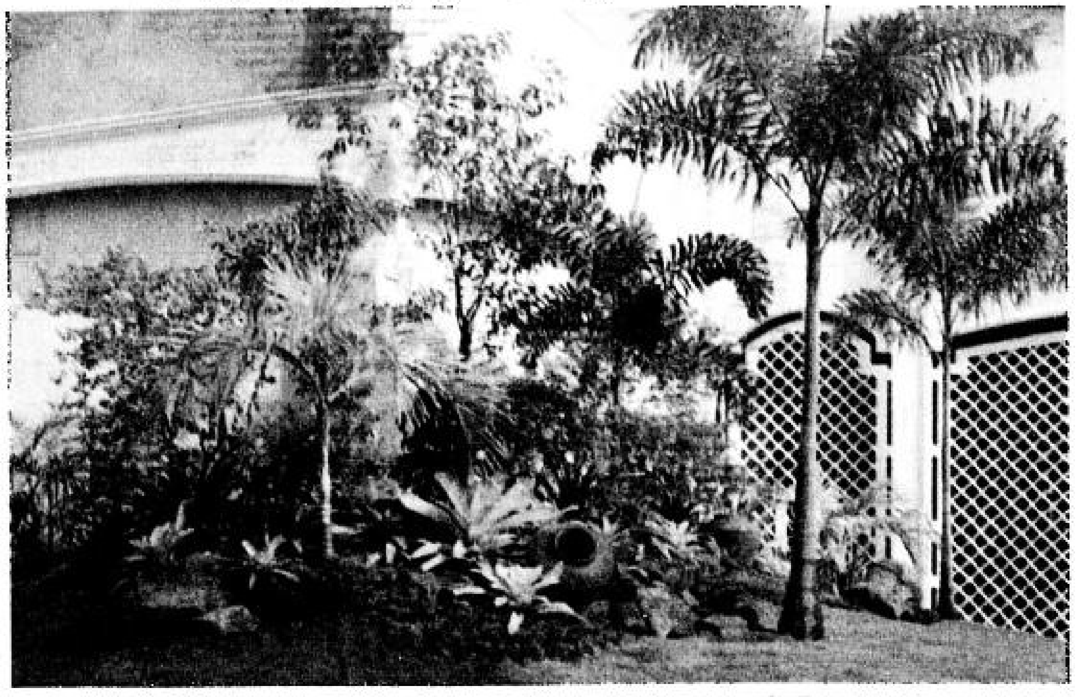


PALMS, ficus and bromeliads in the garden of Talavera businessman Rolly San Pedro

(From page G3)

"We propagate them in our two nurseries," he replied. He said he found a way to mass-propagate the bromeliads without using any of the scientific technologies taught at garden show lectures and demonstrations. "I don't keep it a secret. You just tilt the plant and let it lie on its side. Its instinct for life preservation will make it produce several pups," he said. (Pups is the gardener's term for bromeliad plantlets.)

Bromeliad population in the two nurseries has grown by leaps and bounds, so the Inos family can afford to supply other landscapers like the famous Shirley Sanders.

Family of landscapers

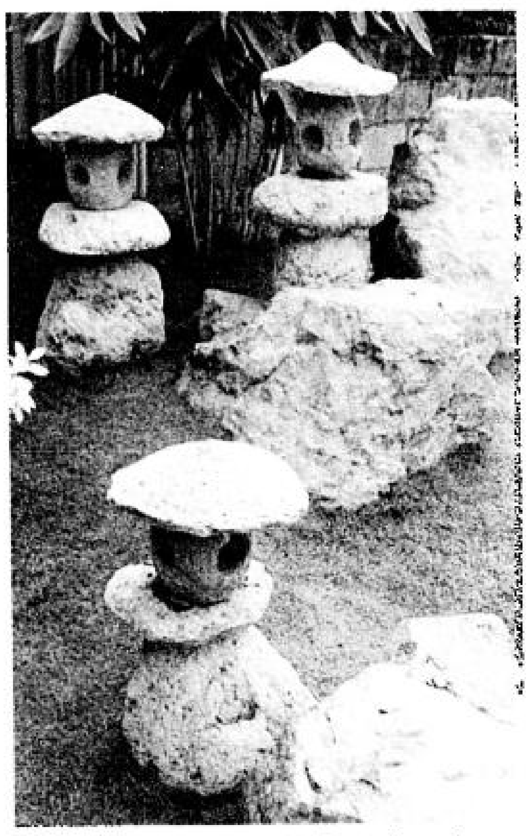
Lorenz is the youngest son of Talavera's veteran landscaper Lorenzo Inos Sr. who started the plant business in 1988. Lorenz took over the landscaping aspect and became a full-time professional landscaper when his father had a stroke. Prior to that, he volunteered to do the gardens of his friends. He also spent considerable time with his bonsai hobby, attending the lectures and seminars of his mentor Manglicmot.

The family, all plant enthusiasts, owns the Nueva Ecija Tropical Gardens with nurseries in Talavera and Cabanatuan. The other son, Jan, is the family agriculturist. His wife Gemma takes care of the nursery. Mother Lina Rena manages to do her gardening share when she is not teaching in the public school. The only son-in-law who would have been a self-made horticulturist unfortunately died in the recent vehicular smash-up in Bocaue.

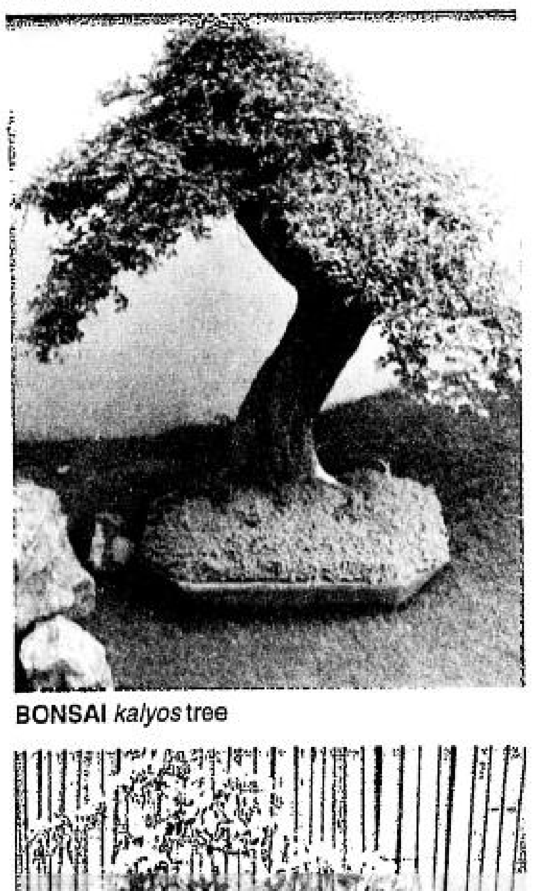
"I prefer my landscaping design to be as close to nature as possible. Hardscape is not my forte," he said. He admitted he was a keen observer of nature. "The best time of my life is when I go to the mountains and look for bonsai materials," he added.

His bonsai collection at home is small. But it will, no doubt, be the envy of seasoned bonsai hobbyists when the sprawling garden is finally completed at the new house of the family. Easily the best looking bonsai in the collection was an ancient looking *kalyos* tree that required five people to haul from the countryside. The other bonsais included *sampalok, kamuning, red balite, bougainvillea,* and a rare Ilocos *bantigue.*

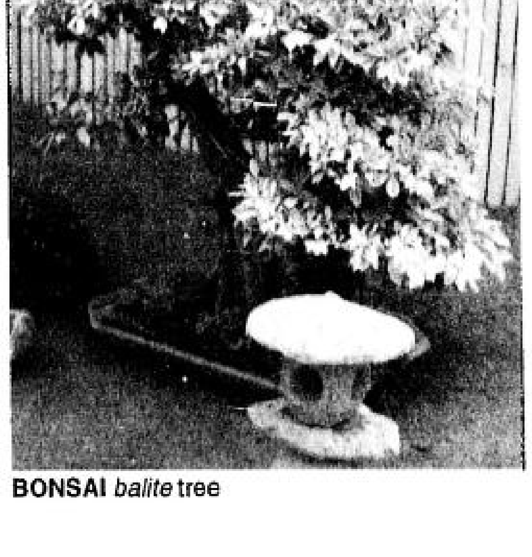
Featured in this page are some of his landscaping work. Call Lorenz at 0918-5103412 or Jan at 0919-2001832.



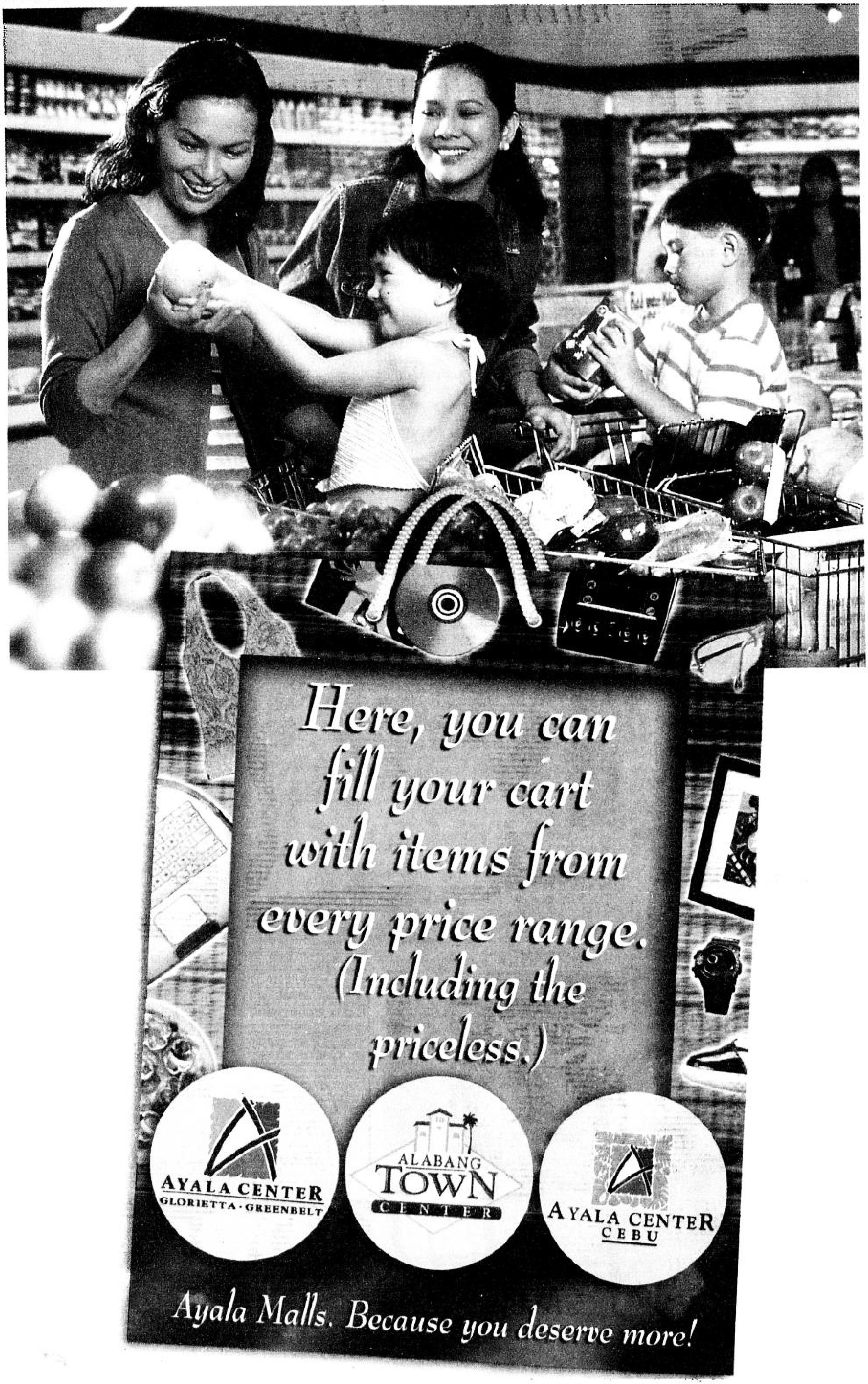
ORIENTAL lanterns from Mt. Pinatubo rocks



BONSAI *kalyos* tree



BONSAI *balite* tree



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Fate and free will, or the darker and lighter sides of number 13

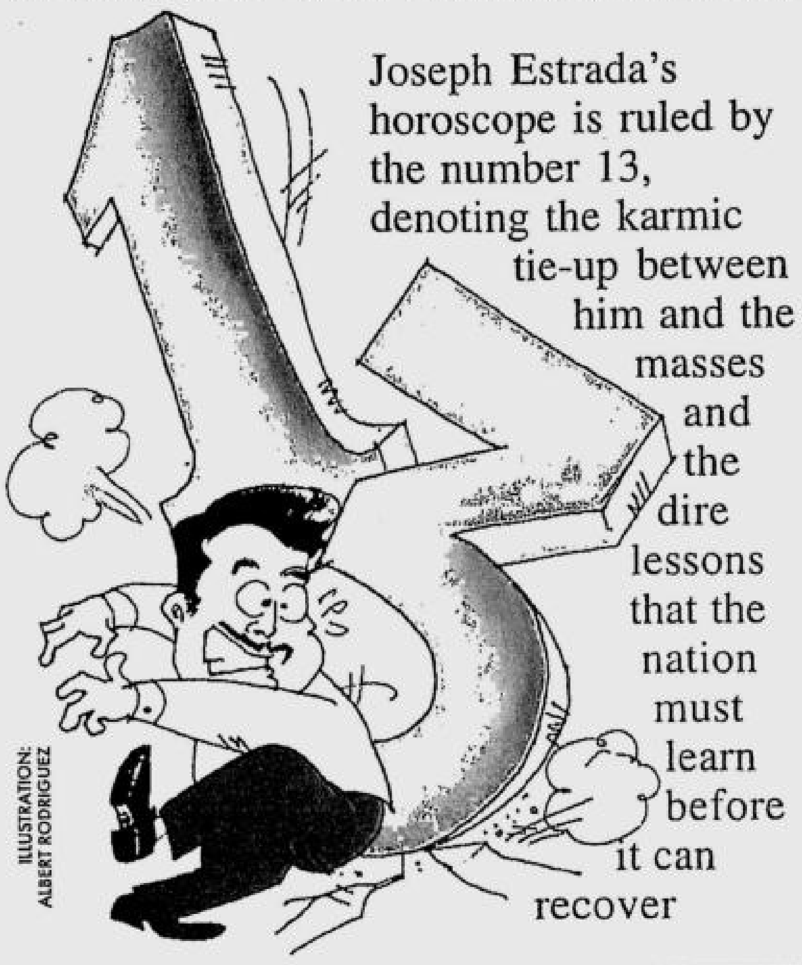

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Joseph Estrada's horoscope is ruled by the number 13, denoting the karmic tie-up between him and the masses and the dire lessons that the nation must learn before it can recover

By Georgina C. Solina

IF freedom exists, why are we in chains? Most people are not free because they do not really want freedom. Free will consists of two short words. We welcome the prospect of being "free," but we tend to forget about the "will." The philosopher Schopenhaeur expressed it pointedly: "We may have free will—but not the will to do it."

Freedom is as much a matter of knowing how to use freedom as being limited by circumstances. When asked about the propriety of his decisions, President Joseph Estrada replied, "Weather weather *lang 'yan*, wait until you be-

FATE/p.H4

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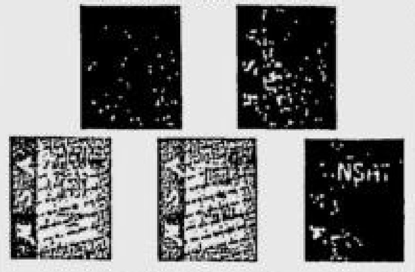

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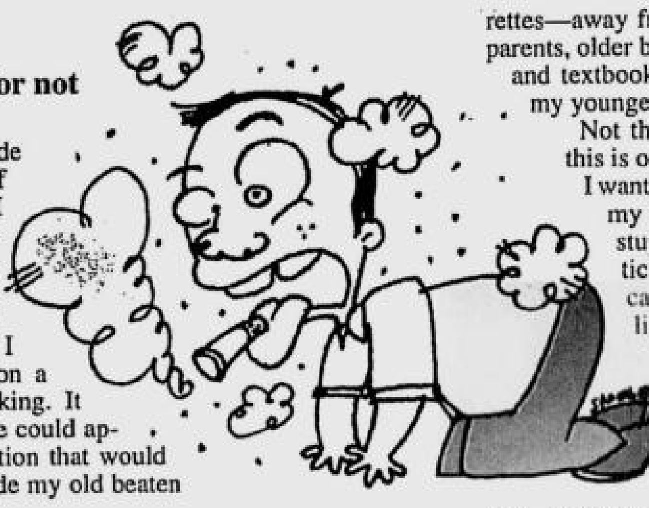
Travails of a nicotine addict in a world dreaming to be smoke-free

Or the perils of political incorrectness amid ecological recovery

BY JOSE JAVIER REYES



I CANNOT be blamed for not trying.

About six years ago, I made yet another resolution as part of a personal overhaul because I was trying to get over something. I even forget what specific dilemma in my personal life I had to wrestle with at that time. All I remember was that I changed my hairstyle, went on a diet… and tried to stop smoking. It seemed that achieving all three could approximate a kind of reincarnation that would transform me to anything beside my old beaten self.

The haircut was no great issue. Struck with genes accommodating gradual expansion of forehead and steady decline of follicles, except for the time I dyed my hair in that shade of orange coming close to Jim Carrey's Riddler, nothing surprises the public about the way I comb my top. Dieting is something I have been doing on and off for the past too many decades of my life. But smoking… ah, smoking filter-tipped menthol cigarettes: That was something else.

I learned to smoke in high school. I do not know if the Christian Brothers of La Salle Greenhills will be shocked to discover that I actually had my first encounter with Marlboro reds while doing our weekly apostolate at orphanages during my sophomore year. Yes, we used to do that for our religion classes. The whole of Section 202 would be carted off on a bus and brought to either the Home for the Aged or White Cross to mingle with the elderly or to amuse the tykes whose lives were less privileged than those taking their secondary education near UniMart. What the teachers did not realize was that little clusters of second-year students would run off to some secluded section of the chosen institutions and light cigarettes, choke, cough then practice the art of holding the lit tobacco cylinder and feign maturity and sophistication.

So adult

It was so adult to smoke in those days. And when I see youngsters sneaking off to some secluded area of the planet to light cigarettes—away from the prying eyes of teachers, parents, older brothers and sisters, maiden aunts and textbook moralists—I get flashbacks of my younger and more careless days.

Not that I take pride in smoking—for this is one habit I want to kick as hard as I want to get rid of certain people in my life. Yet I always find some stupid rationale, some fantastic reason to keep on buying cartons of my brand of menthols, light a cigarette and then equate the pleasure with release of stress or a necessary partner for a cup of coffee. To this day, my mother still sends me clippings of the diseases one can acquire through smoking—going through the endless menu of possible disasters that can be brought about by this addiction.

But even worse than your dirty lungs, sticky esophagus,. embarrassing smoker's cough and yellowing teeth is the newfound consciousness for cleaning the air. Nowadays, being a smoker has become more of a curse. Pretty soon, we will be treated like proverbial lepers. On the contrary, lepers are treated nicely. They are given communities where they can bond and create their own subculture. But not smokers: We are now relegated to a subspecies of self-destructing individuals whose exhalations should be isolated from the purity of atmosphere deserving of all tax-paying individuals and their dependents.

First they used to have smoking sections—in restaurants and lounges and even airplanes.

For some strange reason, perhaps imagined, coffee tastes better with cigarettes. I can even tolerate instant coffee in less conscientious restaurants as long as I can accompany this with a token tobacco stick. For even stranger reasons, the art of conversation seems complete when one punctuates hand gestures with that lit cigarette. Maybe it is just imaginary, something close to be a hypochondriac or being psychosomatic, but whatever, I feel naked without a cigarette, either dangling from my lips or spraying ashes all over the tablecloth or even my lap.

Exposed

Then restaurants started closing down smoking areas and relegated the fumigators to their open-air sections where, together with nicotine, they can also enjoy the carbon monoxide expelled by jeepneys and buses. Not only have we lost the pleasures of air conditioning, but we are now exposed to dust, floating pollen and your usual ingredients that constitute fatal pollution.

During the height of summer, outdoor restaurants are anything but comfortable. It would require more than imagination, maybe dementia, to equate sidewalk restaurants with those found in Europe or the American continent. After all, we are not like the creatures who live with four seasons who would throw themselves to the sweetness of sunlight to feel honest-to-goodness natural heat. We are not Europeans who bask on the sun's glory as if we were photosynthesizing. We are Filipinos who use umbrellas to shield ourselves from ultra-violet rays in tropical heat.

Maybe if I were to pay less than the nonsmoking customers who enjoy the coolness of the enclosed temperature-controlled section, I would not feel as miserable. A friend of mine who has suddenly turned completely holistic and has reached some bonding with the universe so as to claim that she can communicate with hibiscus, grasshoppers and whispering brooks gave me the definitive reason smokers should be isolated from the rest of mankind. She went into this lecture about secondhand smoke as being equally harmful to the respiratory system of nonsmokers who just happened to be within the periphery of the nicotine addict. She was in near tears describing the sacrilegious quality of the event—of having to inhale the smoke released from some damaged pair of lungs—from some irresponsible creature who has no love for his own Temple of God.

Varieties of saliva

I would have probably been converted if it were not for the fact that our Lady of Animism also had the dubious reputation of French-kissing any male of the species with willing and enduring lips. I also reminded her that something as innocent and loving as a kiss also brings about an exchange of bodily fluids when she indulges in her favorite expression of friendship—namely the irrepressible union of oral cavities.

Well, this friend of mine has encountered more varieties of saliva than a dentist or orthodontist. Moreover, I also reminded her that she smoked—except for the fact that her kind of cigarettes were not purchased in cartons, did not have filters and were rolled by hand (an art she perfected with her eyes closed even with both hands tied to her back). She dared clarify that her weeds were organic. "So is tobacco, honey. Except that the only place you can smoke your cigarettes in public is if you were in Amsterdam."

Then she started talking about the greenhouse effect and why she doesn't buy products tested on rabbits… but that is a completely different issue all together.

As I said, there was a time I tried to stop. I bought nicotine patches and must have spent about an hour and a half trying to figure out how the hell this round piece of plaster on my skin will stop my craving. Considering how much the packet cost me, I tried (with utmost dedication and concentration) to keep away from cigarettes. This lasted for a month, the longest span of time I was able to purify my system.

Then there were other occasions that I did not smoke because I could not. Uh, they were the few and far-in-between moments when I was hospitalized. However, the last time this happened, I almost made the nurses crazy at Makati Medical Center when I threatened to go to their cafeteria with the dextrose still plugged into my vein because I was going crazy without my cigarettes.

They have removed smoking seats in airlines. Okay, a short plane ride (I limit this to five straight hours of fasten-your-seat-belt sitting) can be tolerable. But when you go trans-Pacific, the cold turkey you experience provokes you to chew enough gum till your teeth stick together. You stuff your mouth with all forms of sublimation, including candy, chocolates and even the airline magazine. Only a few airlines still take pity on the smoking population to accommodate seats for long flights and turn off the No Smoking sign.

As if this were not enough, smoking lounges in airports are smaller than elevators and contain exhaust fans that have less power than a popcorn maker. Try the smoking lounges of the Ninoy Aquino International. You will have a firsthand experience of how a fish feels when he is being turned into *tinapa*. Smokers are nervously huddled together with two stand-up ashtrays and not looking at each other—as if shamed and branded for life for desecrating their respiratory system in a world determined to return to being pristine.

Wiped out

The same case holds true for airports in Singapore and Bangkok. In the United States, they have even wiped out smoking lounges, and the only place you can have a decent puff is the bar that serves hard drinks. This is also where you find rowdy transient passengers who are determined to be completely boozed out of their brains by the time they reach their destinations.

In Detroit, I had the most unfortunate itinerary of having to rot for five suspended animation hours waiting for my connecting flight to San Francisco. I was forced to spend a substantial amount of this time, drinking a series of gin tonics and trying to read a particularly bland and stupid novel. I was terrified at the thought that in order to sustain my smoking habit, I might end up being a discombobulated alcoholic as well.

In Southern California, there is also a law that removes smoking floors from hotels. At the height of February cold in San Francisco, I found myself outside my hotel, freezing my nose off, smoking. I could have wept at the thought that I could no longer smoke in my own room, afraid that they had this hypersensitive smoke alarm system that would scream hysterically, shower me with freezing water the moment I flicked my Cricket lighter.

And now Makati shopping malls have also banned smoking inside Glorietta and the Rockwell Center. Waiters and security guards have warned me that this is a City Ordinance and that they have to comply. Just a month or so ago, it was still all right to smoke if you were seated in a restaurant area, even if you were situated on the corridor level of the shopping mall. But now even that basic human right is gone. No, it was never a human right, apparently it was a privilege. And they took that away from the smokers.

So it means that the only place you can smoke while window shopping or simply enjoying the sound of credit cards being swiped or cash registers ringing is outside the mall. Step out and light your cigarette. Do not pollute the clean air inside the immaculate shopping arenas. Better yet, go to Friday's, one restaurant I know that still has a smoking section, drown on the bottomless iced tea servings and finish your quota of sticks. At least there you are not made to feel you are the last of the very few remnants of a cursed genus.

Rights

Yeah, I know, I know. I know what the Surgeon General says about the harms of smoking. I know I should have stopped years ago, pursued that small adventure of mine with the nicotine patch and not minded if I gained 20 pounds in a week's time while undergoing withdrawal. I know that one's expulsion of smoke should not be imposed on the nostrils of others.

But we smokers have our rights, too! It's our %$#$*! lungs. You take care of yours and we will handle ours, okay?! And while we are at the subject of deadly gas, why don't they run after the smoke-belching buses on Edsa or Quezon Boulevard?! They certainly emit more venomous vapors than we could possibly expel from our mouths! I can't understand secondhand smoke, but I certainly feel three days have been taken out of my life each time I sniff those foul-smelling gases shooting out of the *tambutsos* of the buses plying the main roads of Manila!

I am beginning to feel it is "if you can't beat them, join them" time. I will try acupuncture next. Then hypnotism. I will try to quit smoking again… if only to be socially acceptable again… or to become a Stepford Wife.

On the other hand, I demand a private dialogue with Rep. Neric Acosta of Bukidnon who authored the Clean Air Act. I want a better explanation for my personal suffering and my social castigation.

ILLUSTRATIONS BY STEPH BRAVO

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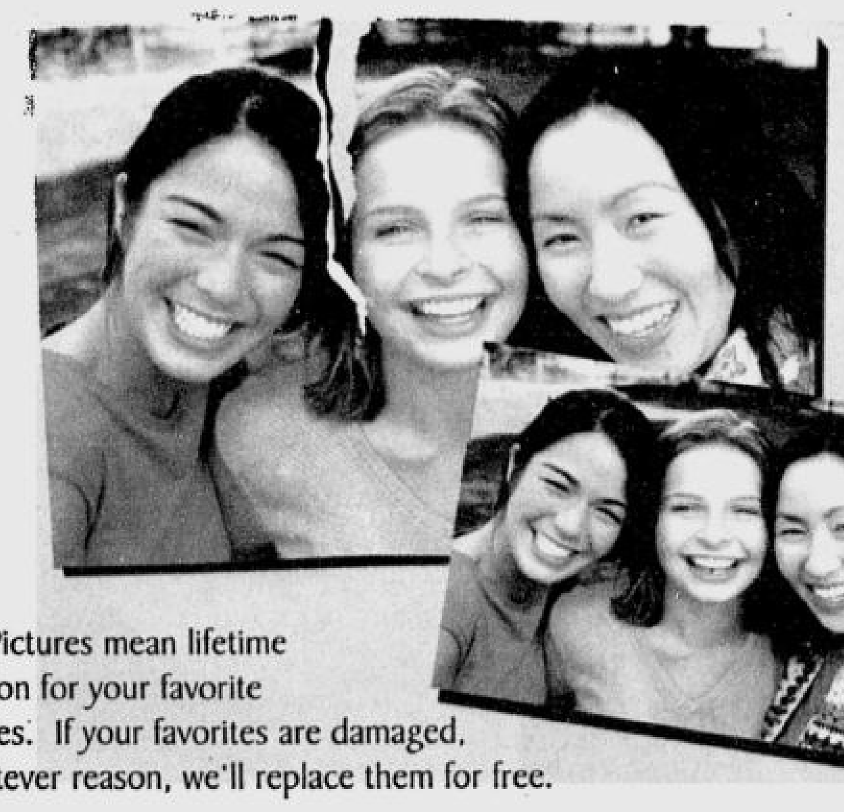

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Senior citizens online

BY CHERISH GARCIA-HERNANDEZ

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

USING a computer is second nature to children nowadays. Even 5- or 6-year-olds can navigate the Internet effortlessly. The same cannot be said of most adults. A lot of women I know actually hire tutors to teach them how to use the computer. With everything just a matter of "point and click" these days, it's hard to believe but it's true.

An aunt confessed that she thought that the mouse was used like a remote control and so she held it as such. My own mother once tried to chat with my sister on *icq* and she typed her messages straight without stops because she didn't want to press the "enter" button for fear that she would erase something. There is a whole generation, curiously mostly women, who aren't even comfortable using a fax machine or DVD player.

This is why I was not too optimistic on finding websites for senior citizens. I mean, can you imagine your grandmother using the computer? To my surprise though, there is a whole community for seniors in cyberspace. Of course you have to weed through all the dirty old men sites for pederasts and the like but once they have been sifted through, there are many, many sites for *lola* and *lolo*. Lifestyle sites, chat rooms, discussion groups, the 50 and above are on-line!

More than just sending e-mail, here are a few sites catering to an older age group:

www.seniorcitizens.com

This is the mother of all senior sites. When you click on it, a smaller window opens with "Bifocal News." The news items featured are those from various sources with one thing in common—they concern seniors.

The actual site is an endless list with everything from care-giving links to "gay and lesbian seniors." They have fitness and exercise for seniors and even a link to "elder law" which has advice on elder abuse and wills. These are US laws though. I checked out the entertainment link thinking that the DVDs and books would be specially chosen for seniors. However, it was disappointingly nothing but a link to amazon.com. Other interesting links include grandparenting advice at www.todaysgrandparent.com, which seems like overkill, though, unless the grandparents themselves were to bring up their grandchildren. Over all, this is a good place to start if a fiftysomething is entering the World Wide Web for the first time.

www.thirdage.com

This is a nice e-zine dedicated to the fashionable older woman. It is affiliated with More magazine which also caters to women of an older age group. It has features on beauty and style, health, horoscopes, mostly what one would find in a regular magazine. The nice thing about this site is that it avoids emphasizing the fact that it is addressing an older woman. It is only when you read the articles and features in depth that one realizes that older women's concerns are being addressed. For example, a 50-year-old supermodel (who looks great) shares her makeup tips. The advertisements, however, are a dead giveaway. For instance "better fitting dentures in just four days!"

www.senior-spirit.com

Another e-zine for women, but this one is overtly for the older woman when compared to thirdage.com. It has discussion forums, of which the current topic is "widows in control." When we checked the featured story was "sex secrets for successful sex for seniors." It kind of freaked me out. The are other more toned down topics like "tips on how to make your wardrobe current" and a whole area on holistic health.

www.poshnosh.com

This is a travel site for senior women, maybe widows, who don't want to travel alone. (For some reason, most sites seem to have specifically women in mind.) They stress that they are not "old lady travel" but rather they are for "50+ women with a large cultural appetite, who love to shop and eat." Apparently, they arrange several trips throughout the year. So far, the 2001 schedule is impressive—London in February, Paris in March, Venice in April, New York in August. They even have a grandmother-granddaughter trip planned.

www.seniorsearch.com

This is a search engine exclusively for seniors. It is a typical search engine with classifications for Arts & Humanities, Autos, Business & Economy, and the like. The difference is, the information has been weeded to contain topics that would be of interest or related to seniors.

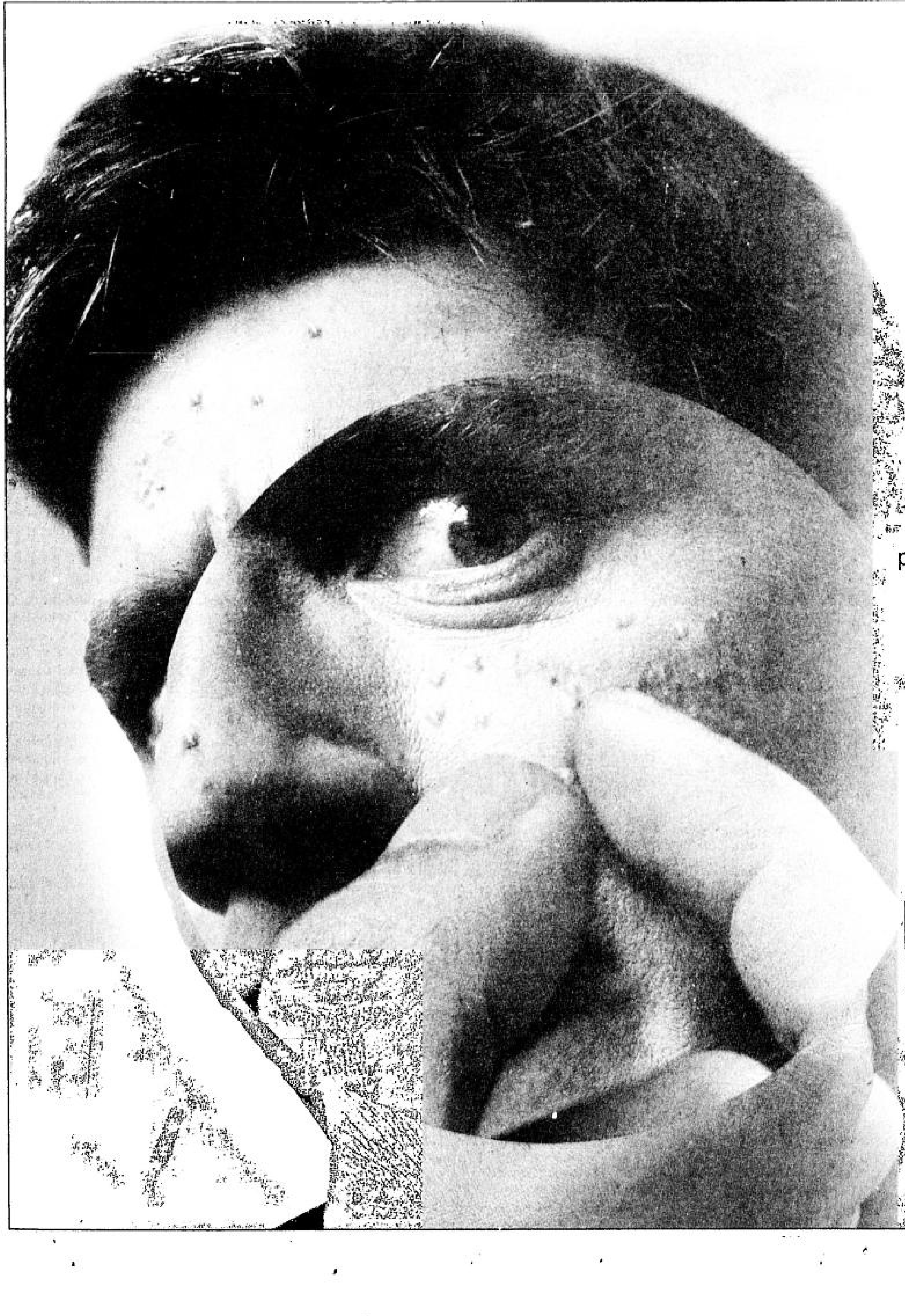
Yahoo has one as well at www.seniors.yahoo.com.

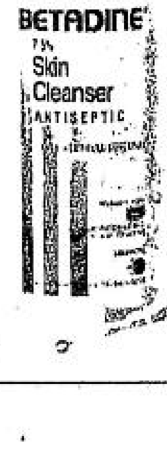
Like all other choices on the Internet, the number is overwhelming. Bottom line is, if you know what you're looking for or what interests you, these are a few guides. Of course, no one wants to be called a Senior Citizen. Many women I know even refuse to be called *lola* or grandma. But knowing that the Internet has not excluded them is a good sign.

There is absolutely no reason to be too old for anything. So pick up that mouse and click away. Who knows, some widows and widowers might even meet a new friend or find a long-lost love online.

E-mail the author at cherishgh@yahoo.com

> You're not too old for anything. So pick up that mouse and click away





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2. Work into lather on face (or area affected with acne) for 15 seconds just like liquid soap.
3. Rinse thoroughly with water.
4. Use two to three times a day until acne has completely healed (preferably in the morning and before going to bed).

For inquiries, please call
Pascual Clear Skin Hotline
926-9451 or 920-1911 to 15 loc. 217

Honesty is the first step to self-transformation

SOMETIMES we try too hard to change for the better, sometimes we do not try hard enough. We do have to make an effort. Trying is necessary if we want to improve. Our circumstances, our relationships and our destinies are only the echo of our own characters, so we are ultimately responsible. The only indispensable change we can make is in our own characters.

Commitment to improvement is necessary. The power of commitment is that it channels our energies to realizing our goals. If we are honest with ourselves, we can be committed to our growth.

We don't have to be perfect, but we do have to be honest. Honesty makes us realistic about what we can do according to our understanding of our capacity. Still, we must keep our eyes open to the next step on the ladder, never pressuring ourselves into climbing, if we are not yet ready, but always acknowledging the existence of that higher step. Being ready when it is time to climb—that is honesty.

Making honest efforts means we keep ourselves available for any of the lessons that life brings. For no matter how much we have read or done, no matter how much we know or understand, there is always room to learn.

Honesty requires humility.

Learning

For development we need understanding. Deep understanding puts us in the right frame of mind. It leads to insight and gives us the capacity to perceive things in a totally new light. New perceptions clear out old, ineffective patterns, bringing a breath of new confidence to life.

Understanding, whether we call it knowledge, perception or insight, has great value, but only when we act upon it. It is action that brings experience, gained through practice. Practice changes theory into reality. Reality creates inner strength. That is progress.

Clear understanding sometimes comes instantly, but more often it comes with time. Understanding is the foundation of learning.

In learning there is progress and in progress, joy. Let us keep learning and experimenting. For example, Leonardo da Vinci wanted to discover a way for people to fly. But his contemporaries insisted that, if God wanted human beings to fly, He would have made them with wings, like the birds. They said man's place is on the ground. In spite of this, Leonardo kept on trying. Though he failed, his determined attempts in the face of all opposition are still remembered today. Four hundred years later, the airport in Rome is named the Leonardo da Vinci airport.

ILLUSTRATION. ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

> We don't have to be perfect, but we do have to be honest. Honesty makes us realistic about what we can do according to our understanding of our capacity

We never know enough. There is always something to discover. There is always something new to learn.

Blame

Some people blame themselves for everything. Whatever goes wrong they assume it is their fault. A lack of self-respect makes them believe themselves to be unworthy. Over time these feelings of unworthiness are manifested in their belief that they deserve neither happiness nor love and that their suffering is a deserved punishment. They lose the strength and vision to seek solutions.

Some people constantly project the cause of their misfortunes on others. The main reason for this is an unwillingness to take responsibility for their choices. It is more comfortable and more convenient to make someone else the scapegoat. People hold onto the past and cannot forgive or forget. They miss the opportunity to change their ways of thinking, they lose the opportunities of the present.

Problems and difficulties are signals that we need to change our attitudes and our behavior. We need to acknowledge our weaknesses and take responsibility for the choices we make. When we take responsibility, we win freedom. Other people are neither the cause of, nor the solution to our unhappiness. We will never find solutions if we are preoccupied with blaming others. Our minds will be too full of resentment, animosity and hopelessness to have the clarity to choose wisely.

In blaming others we justify our own lack of responsibility; in blaming ourselves we justify our feelings of guilt and inferiority.

Spirituality gives us the wisdom to transcend both.

Anthony Strano

Gems of knowledge

Spiritual pilgrimage

Bodily pilgrimages of holy places actually commemorate the spiritual pilgrimage from body-consciousness to soul-consciousness to God-consciousness.

Like a guest

Live life like a guest. Use all available amenities and facilities and ignore all deficiencies and shortcomings. Everything will come to pass. Consciousness of a guest will save you from attachment and consequent repentance.

Concentration

Wasted thoughts, words and actions cause waves and ripples which disturb concentration and weaken our powers of discrimination and judgement, thereby interfering with our ruling and controlling powers.

The treasures

Money alone has come to be considered as the most valuable treasure today. Spiritual wisdom tells that your time, health, inner powers and virtues are even more precious. Fulfillment in life depends upon the extent to which we utilize all these treasures.

Magic carpet

Flying high by plane is like a joy ride when you pass over mountain peaks. Things below become invisible or, at lower altitude, look very small. Raising the level of your consciousness has a similar effect. Obstacles disappear. This flying stage of the soul is described in stories as travel in the sky on a magic carpet.

Wise sayings

● Virtues are like precious perfumes—most fragrant when they are incensed, or crushed.—**Frances Bacon**

● It is only with the heart that one can see rightly. What is essential is invisible to the eye.—**Antoine De Saint Exupery**

● He who seizes the right moment is the right man.—**Goethe**

● Truth can be stretched but cannot be broken and always gets above falsehood, as oil does above water.—**Miguel de Cervantes**

● A thankful heart is not only the greatest virtue, but the parent of all other virtues.—**Cicero**

Fate and free will, or the darker and lighter sides of number 13

(From page H1)

come President, then you can do what you want as I am doing what I want."

His remark was obviously a good sound byte in Tagalog, but it showed utter disregard of the law. It showed unwillingness to face up to responsibility.

Estrada readily assumed that freedom was desirable. To him, it meant doing whatever he liked, running his show his own way, and for a Sun-in-Aries-negatively-linked-to-Pluto person, it could actually bring about his own undoing. As what happened last January.

Estrada failed obviously to appreciate the implications of responsibility that is attached to freedom, and so he built many mansions for his mistresses. He would have amassed more mistresses and mansions had he not been ousted. Often, it is those who have everything who are the greediest and the most restless. Often it is those who live within the most limited circumstances who succeed most. Many people who are paralyzed, blind or physically handicapped are far freer in spirit than those who have all the material advantages of life conferred upon them by rank and privilege.

The road to freedom is not an easy one. It requires a great deal of courage to face oneself, "warts and all." It takes courage to accept oneself. That is why many people are not free. They like the sound of freedom, demand their rights, but when it comes to accepting responsibility that goes with freedom, when it comes to facing themselves as they really are, when it comes to treading their own lonely path, it is a very different matter.

Many of those with the so-called "*masa*" mentality may be found in all class lines. They are not necessarily suffering from poverty of the wallet but more likely from poverty of the mind.

Fate of stars

The constellation shows the difference between fate and freedom. Pluto conjoined the Philippine Ascendant on Nov. 8, 2000, and then opposed the national Pluto on Dec. 8, 2000. It went exact Jan. 20, when Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo took her oath of office after four turbulent days that saw the ouster of Estrada. It went exact again on May 18, four days after the divisive elections of May 14. The power of Pluto is expected to dissipate on July 18.

Between April and May, while Pluto stayed stationary, unleashing an energy that galvanized the people who massed for what was supposedly Edsa III. This Pluto passage will again be reviewed in November 2001. That can be seen from the day of the nation's birth (June 12, 1896). There is no avoiding it. It is the nation's fate. It is the people of the Philippines who are fated to be on trial. Their karma demands it.

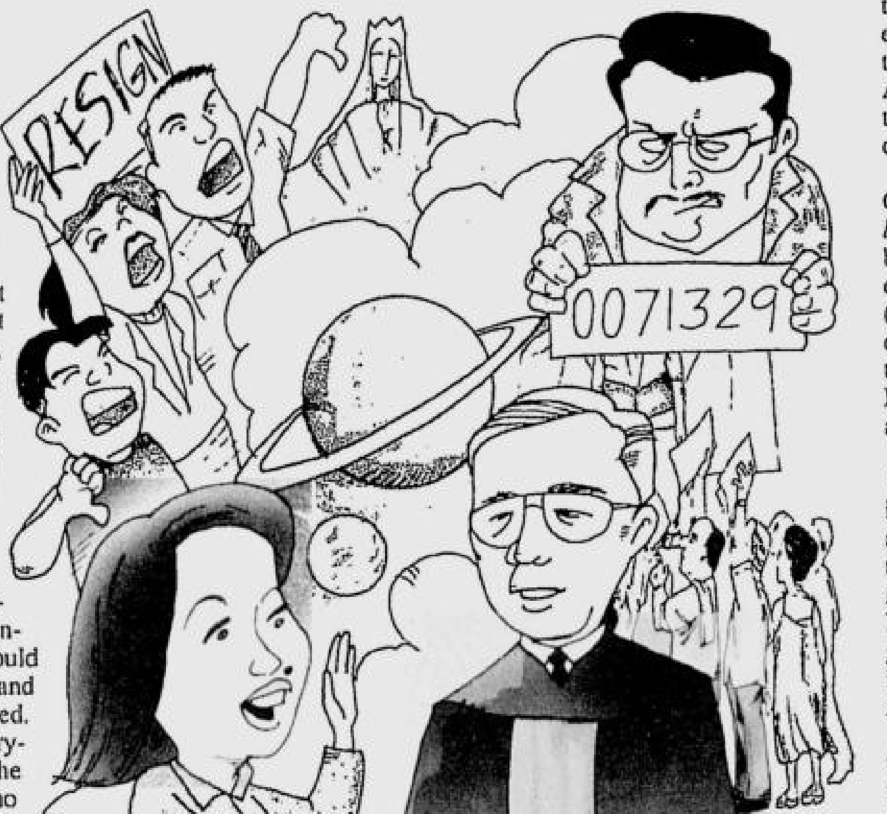


ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Filipinos have to learn more hard lessons on good judgment, on discerning right from wrong, moral from immoral, just from unjust, honesty from dishonesty. Estrada is representative of their lot. As paranormal researcher Jaime Licauco says, "The President is merely a mirror of our people's collective consciousness. He is every Filipino. He is us, whether we like it or not. He represents what every Filipino unconsciously wants to be, that is, to become very rich by any means and get away with it. That's why we can't take what the President represents out of our system."

Karmically, it can be explained further. Understanding that the nativity chart contains the planetary laws of our being, we can therefore perceive the plan connecting the nation with Estrada's own life pattern. His own natal Sagittarius Ascendant happens to coincide with the national Ascendant on 13 degrees Sagittarius, declaring in full: "Ye cannot serve God and Mammon," (Matt. vi, 24; Luke xvi, 13) This degree glaringly denounces the greed of filthy lucre.

The people must not ignore the lesson: what is ill gotten is ill fated. Take note of the number 13 being repeated in the zodiac degree. It denotes a karmic tie-up between Estrada and the *masa* who voted for him and who were spurred to march to Mendiola by inflammatory speeches by opposition senatorial candidates during Edsa III. Transiting Pluto opposing national Pluto raging at this time was given a full range of expression. But from all indications, the government of Macapagal-Arroyo is under the protection of the God; the attempt at power grab did not succeed.

Take note: the Filipino name for God is Bathala. It alludes to Ba- for *babae* (woman), -at (and) -ha (for breath and the four elements—air, earth, fire, water) and -la for *lalake* (man). It appears that Mother Goddess comes first before Father God to the ancients, who perceived the Divine as both female and male, or androgynous.

The indictment of Estrada for 13 plunder cases has had a shattering effect on our country, causing a Gemini Split. Humanity is splitting into two groups and as we move closer to the photon belt of light, people all over the planet will get more and more agitated by the intense cleansing to release accumulated the dark karma of the past.

But what meaning, if any, will the owners (the Filipino people) of the national horoscope, give to that contact with the light? As Pluto transits the Ascendant or First house, it signifies that this area, First house of Image—how the world looks at the Filipinos and how the Filipinos look at the world—is due for radical change or transformation. It is time for full-scale reconstruction, preceded if necessary by the destruction of the old change-resistant patterns. The entire cycle of death, destruction and renovation is accompanied by tremendous powers, for Pluto is not a mild or subtle planetary influence. One can see its effects very clearly. Pluto's transits cannot be avoided. Pluto is fate.

Meeting Moira

Fate is well defined by the ancient Greeks who believed that the gods had their provinces by the impersonal appointment of Moira (fate), a feminine god-force. The world was regarded as the kingdom of Destiny and Law. Necessity and Justice—"must" and "ought"—meet in this primary notion of Order—a concept, which to Greek religious representation was ultimate and unexplained.

Greek thought is full of fate. Check the great classical tragedies and the European dramas that were influenced by them. The curtain opens on the first act of Wagner's "Gotterdammerung" ("Twilight of the Gods") "amid gloomy silence and stillness, and there, crouched upon the crag before the cave that is at once the womb and the tomb, the passage outward into life and downward into death, are the tall female forms swathed in dark veil-like drapery." They are daughters of Nyx, the goddess of Night, or Erda, the Earth mother. They are called Moira or Triple-faced Hekate, and they represent the three phases of the Moon with its lunar cycle of 13 months. The solar cycle has 12 months, however, and we love to anticipate our 13th month pay in the 12th month of the solar year. That's the lighter side of Number 13.

Coming home to attend weddings

LIVE AND LET LIVE

Tita Dulce

DEAR Tita Dulce,

I am blessed with a well-paying job which I enjoy. Around me are also lucky Filipinos, and this coming June I will be back in Manila to attend the weddings of three relatives and a friend. That means four wedding gifts and I will be the best man in one. Would cash be okay as a wedding gift?

I will have a lot of free time. Can you suggest some activities that will make me forget the garbage I read about? I have been away for the past three years. My siblings are also all abroad and my senior citizen parents will just want me to go to church. And talk to them.

Thank you and more power.

RICKY

After being away for so long, your relatives and friends will be a joy to talk to. Since they invited you to their weddings, it proves they care for you.

Cash would be a welcome gift during these times of stress. A hundred dollars now equals P5,000. You have to enclose them in a wedding card, of course.

Another way of making the bride and groom happy is to give them a gift certificate. That way they will be able to choose what they really need. For example, if you give them a rice cooker or an electric fan, they might be receiving the same from other guests.

I did not include above the paragraph in your letter mentioning the bad news you read about us here. When you come, give priority time to your parents. Making them happy will also give you blessings. They are right, you know. They will want to see you going to church. Knowing that where you work now, churches cannot be found around the corner.

Watch a movie with some friends. It may also be a good time to have a medical checkup. You surely are in top form, and being told by a doctor that there's nothing wrong with you, it will surely strengthen the power of your mind. And as you will also agree, an ounce of prevention is worth more than a pound of cure.

If you really want to be treated to something different, on June 23, at the Meralco theater, you can enjoy "A Conversation with Neale Donald Walsch," author of the world bestsellers "Conversations with God 1, 2 and 3." His books have touched millions all over the world, but where you work you may not have heard of him. Tickets are available at PowerBooks. Call 426-5375, 929-0230 or 533-0560.

Her friend needs prosthesis (false leg)

I HOPE you can do me this favor. I have a friend looking for a low-cost prosthesis for her leg because she lost one limb due to cancer. I believe you know some people who can help us. Can you send us their contact number or address? My tel. no. is 652-2554.

My friend's name is Blanca Gontra. Her address is Bgy. Casile, Binangonan, Rizal. She has no phone. My address is 120 Antazo Subdivision, Dalig, Binangonan, Rizal. Thank you.

MARY JANE S. OLIVA

Let's pray that some readers can tell you where to ask or go for assistance for your friend. At this writing I don't have a ready answer. *Hija*, more things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of.

Another SOS

I'M an out-of-school youth. I graduated from high school in 1999. I cannot pursue college because my parents are not financially stable. I have tried to get a job but still I cannot afford the tuition fees. Is there an institution or any organization where I can apply for a scholarship? I'm only an average person. I am from Mindanao and very eager to study. I hope you can help me. More power and God bless your column.

REBECCA CAPUNONG
c/o Mila's Store
Pecasales Street
Mangayoy, Bislig City
8311

You can also consider taking up some activity like cross-stitching or doing some home-based product that can bring you extra income. You did not state what course you are interested in. In your city there surely are offices where you can get information. Don't plan to cross bridges that are kilometers away. Good luck, my dear.

E-mail the author at titadulce@netscape.net or send letters to P.O. Box 2353, Makati CPO 1263 Makati City, or PDI, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City

Flights of fancy at Greenfield Estate

AT A THOUSAND feet above sea level, and caressed by gentle breezes blowing from Laguna Lake and Mt. Makiling, is a place not to be missed. On a beautiful Sunday morning recently, it served as a perfect site for flying kites and remote-control (RC) plane models.

The occasion was "Fun Flights," a family day organized by Ayala Land on the rolling hills of Ayala Greenfield Estate (AGE) in Calamba, Laguna. Gathered were guests enjoying family-oriented activities that included kite-flying as well as an aerial exhibition featuring RC planes and choppers.

Organizers of the event tapped the Kite Association of the Philippines led by Orly Ongkiko and RC plane and chopper enthusiasts that included RPN 9 newscaster Buddy Lopa.

As an appetizer, Ongkiko showed children how to make a basic kite (*boka-boka* in local parlance) and fly it. The simple demonstration was also a trip down memory lane for those who, in their younger years, got a big kick out of flying kites. While youngsters and their parents were enjoying themselves, Ongkiko and his colleagues brought out big, colorful kites that soon filled the blue sky.

At about the same time, Lopa and company began revving up their expensive toys (ranging in price from P50,000-P500,000 each) in preparation to getting them airborne.

One by one, RC planes and choppers took off and made simple and complex maneuvers that delighted the audience. Among the many models that were part of the aerial exhibition were a vintage World War II fighter plane, a Sikorsky attack chopper, a rescue helicopter and a delta wing F-14 Tomcat.

While many of the guests came for the fun, there were those who visited AGE to enjoy the fresh air and appreciate vast vistas of Laguna Lake to the north, Tagaytay Ridge to the south and bustling Metro Manila to the distant west.

It was also a familiarization trip for anyone who had already purchased a home lot at AGE as well as for anyone who was still mulling a decision on when to build a home at what is soon to become the Forbes Park of Ayala South.

One of them, Raymond Belmonte, an ENT specialist at Lourdes Hospital in Mandaluyong City, was with his wife Teresa and son Boris to fly kites and to have a look-see at a piece of prime property perched on a hill clearly visible from the South Luzon Expressway.

"A lot here is worth considering both as an investment and as a nice place to build a vacation house even if distance from the working place won't allow us to live here all the time," he says. "What makes it more attractive is that it is being developed by Ayala."

Businessman Frederick Te, who already owns a lot at Ayala Greenfield Estate, agrees with Belmonte. "It's having the best of both worlds, since you are confident that your property—being by Ayala—is well-secured as an investment and as a future home."

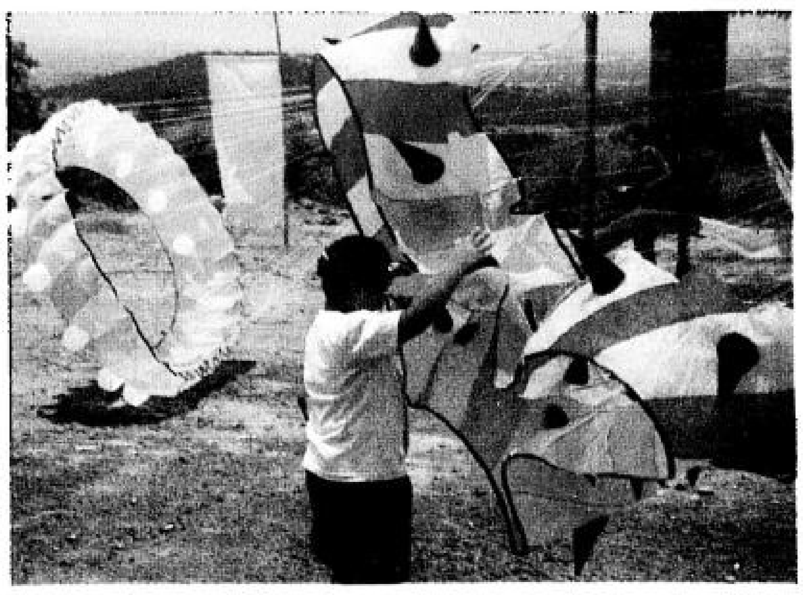
Te says the decision to purchase was prompted by his desire to bring his family "far from the madding crowd"—away from the hustle and bustle of city life and closer to nature.

Indeed, nature lovers will easily fall for AGE. Based on its master plan, there will be 15 hectares of open field, lagoons, groves, a fruit orchard, camping and picnic grounds, a butterfly garden, a putting course, pony trails and canopied pathways.

Intended to complement this vast open area is a planned 14-km long nature trail complete with exercise stations that will wind its way around the estate.

These nature features surely clinched Te's decision. Though he finds the lots a "bit expensive," Te believes that they're definitely worth it. "I guess I just have to trust the company since it's one of the most established in the country."

NEWSCASTER Buddy Lopa, winner of RC Combat Category, and Al Legaspi, AVP for sales



A BOY'S delight

ORLY Ongkiko shows the kids how to make a kite.

PARTICIPANTS prepare for their RC chopper models before the exhibition.

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What is South Africa's Rustenburg Nature Reserve?

SEEING GREEN

Doris Gaskell Nuyda

FOR THE PAST five years, Cathay Pacific Airways has been sending Filipino students—aged 16-18—to South Africa as prize for winning in an essay contest with the environment as theme. Up until 2000, the venue for this prize trip was the Lapalala Wilderness School, some distance away from the city of Johannesburg.

Apparently in need of respite, the Lapalala site has been replaced by the Rustenburg Nature Reserve, situated just off the town with the same name in the South African northwest.

With the new crop of essay contest winners due to fly out this July, there are questions on what it is they will see and learn in this African wilderness. The just-ended "Survivor" series on cable TV seems to have honed more interest in Cathay's nature trip project. Like the "Survivor" contestants, Rustenburg campers must learn to live close to nature, experience its sights and wonders—but without the backbiting and bratty behavior. As a matter of fact, the wilderness experience is meant to foster international understanding (there are 60 participants from Southeast Asian and Pacific countries), culture-sharing and a lot of cooperation. Trekking up mountain trails and living it up with just the basics of life are made easier when all participants get along well with each other.

It was Sir William Cornwallis-Harris (then a captain) who, in 1836, first encountered the Rustenburg Nature Reserve, known at the time as Magaliesburg. It was there that he first saw the sable antelope, which was, until lately, an endangered species. This antelope now shares the Reserve with 84 other mammal species—kudus, zebras, caraculs, aardwolf, black-backed jackal, leopard and the elusive brown hyena. There are also primates like baboons, Ververt monkeys and Bush babies.

Bird life abounds, considering the wide range of habitats in the area. Some 230 bird species have been recorded, common among them the Martial and Black Eagles.

Among the 130 plant species found there, many are "exoticas" like Buffalo Thorn, Mountain Cabbage, Transvaal Milkplum, Common Tree Euphoria and Marula.

The Rustenburg or Magaliesburg Reserve existed 2,000 years ago, making it a hundred times older than the Himalayas. Signs of its antiquity are evident all over the place.

The place has been described as a "magical realm of "ripple rocks," which are fragments of the shores of a giant inland lake. There are bizarre mushroom formations, the result of erosions on various rock layers. There are quartzite cliffs, precipitous gorges and peakless summits planed to almost uniform height by ancient glacial action.

The skulls unearthed in nearby caves further attest to the site's antiquity. The ecosystem that Cornwallis-Harris found in the mid-19th-century, was complex and beautiful, and that is what the four young Filipinos will discover. From it all, they will learn one great lesson: that conservation of our planet's mountains and natural resources begins with each one of them—with each one of us.

Camps for parent-child bonding

FOR NATURE lovers who like their treks nearer to home, Bibsy Carballo has good news. Carballo, organizer of the recently ended Summer Nature and Arts Camp for Kids (Snack), is now setting up two other projects for parent-child bonding. One is Daddy's Snack, in celebration of Father's Day, to be held on the weekend of June 9-10. The other is Snack 2001 to be held July 16-21.

Both affairs emphasize the beauty of nature and the adventures it provides, giving parents and their children the opportunity to interact in surroundings away from urban hustles.

The camps will take participants to Mt. Talamitam in Batangas where the forest is full of *narra*, *kamagong*, Banyan trees and fauna such as *musang* (wild cat), monitor lizards (*bayawak*), wild chicken (*labuyo*), monkeys, butterflies and fireflies.

There will be sailing lessons at Taal Lake Yacht Club in Talisay, Batangas. Other activities include mountaineering, trekking, kayaking, art and photography lessons. Interested parties can call the Snack office, tel. 721-0801, 726-7164, (0917) 615-835 or e-mail bibsymcar@pacific. net.ph.

Keeping that hair up there

An ounce of prevention is better than a pound of cure. This is probably the principle behind most personal care products manufactured nowadays. After all, what's a box of toothpaste except mainly to seize the onset of tooth decay? Or deodorants to spare others and ourselves of embarrassing body odor? More, we ward off coughs and colds with vitamins. We sprinkle on foot powder to keep our feet from smelling at the end of the day. And we apply suntan lotion before sunbathing to prevent sunburn.

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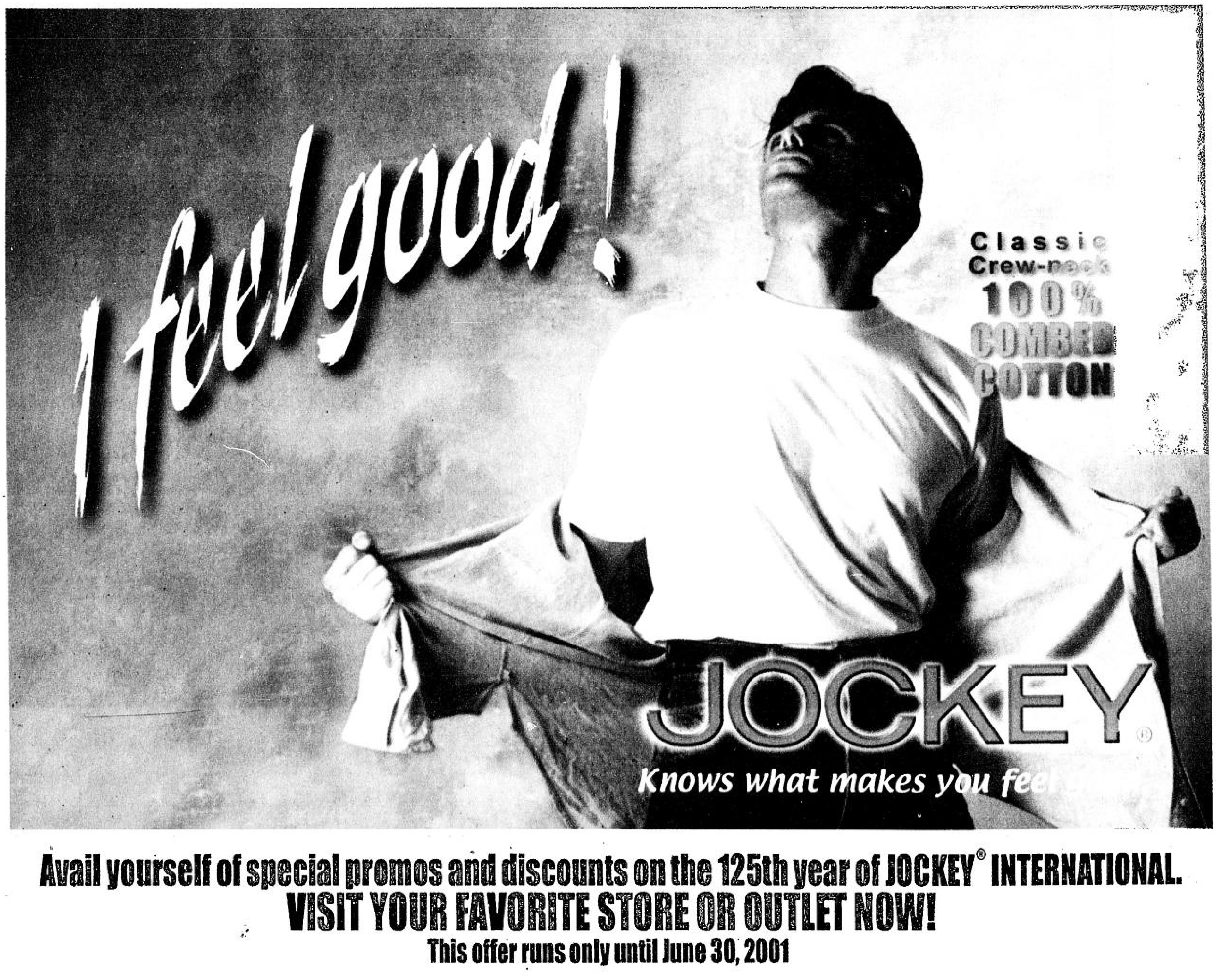

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From bedroom to showroom

By Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Chito Vecina

THE LINES between the bedroom and the showroom are now blurred. Interior designers Ivy and Cynthia Almario have employed a number of homey touches to transform several supposedly cold and no-nonsense retail stores into warm, inviting places to relax and, well, shop in.

What's amazing is none of these four establishments located at the Power Plant in Rockwell carry the same products. Except for the restaurant and jewelry store owned by Chinese national Anita Chan, each of these shops project a distinct look.

The US-trained sisters have done several houses and condominium units here and abroad. They also worked on a number of hotels such as the Manila Hotel (before its new owners mindlessly tinkered with it), Holiday Inn Clark and the extensions of Shangri-La Mactan and Edsa Plaza. It comes as no surprise then that they fused elements of home and store in their first mall venture.

"The real challenge here," says Ivy, "is to come up with something creative given such a small space." Read: a shop's limited interior should be enticing enough to lure in potential customers.

The partners invariably worked around a Chinese theme for Macau Pigeon House and Anita Chan (the jewelry store is named after the owner). But as Cynthia puts it, the restaurant is probably one of the first of its kind to veer from traditional red and gold walls in favor of "robin's egg" blue.

Several wall sconces, in the form of sky-blue Chinese lanterns in various shapes and cut in half, illuminate a section of the wall. Empty wooden birdcages, thank goodness, add a touch of whimsy to several illuminated alcoves. A number of smaller birdcages complement identical Chinese table settings mounted on fiberglass that double as wall accents. Several identical lanterns are suspended above a section of the dining area.

Pigeons and flowers

A bigger artwork of pigeons and flowers rendered on silk and bordered by lighted diffusers attracts passersby. Again, they chose subdued colors with hints of gold instead of red and other fiery shades.

Except for the birdcages and mounted table settings, certain elements found in the restaurant are repeated in the jewelry store. In keeping with the merchandise's high-end image, however, the pair chose a more stark color scheme in white, dark brown and pearlized beige.

Lantern-inspired wall sconces in beige are limited to a pair that border the billboard carrying the owner's name. Two Chinese lanterns, for real this time, illuminate a sitting area inside the shop composed of two upholstered chairs and a side table. An antique mir-

FROM/ p.12

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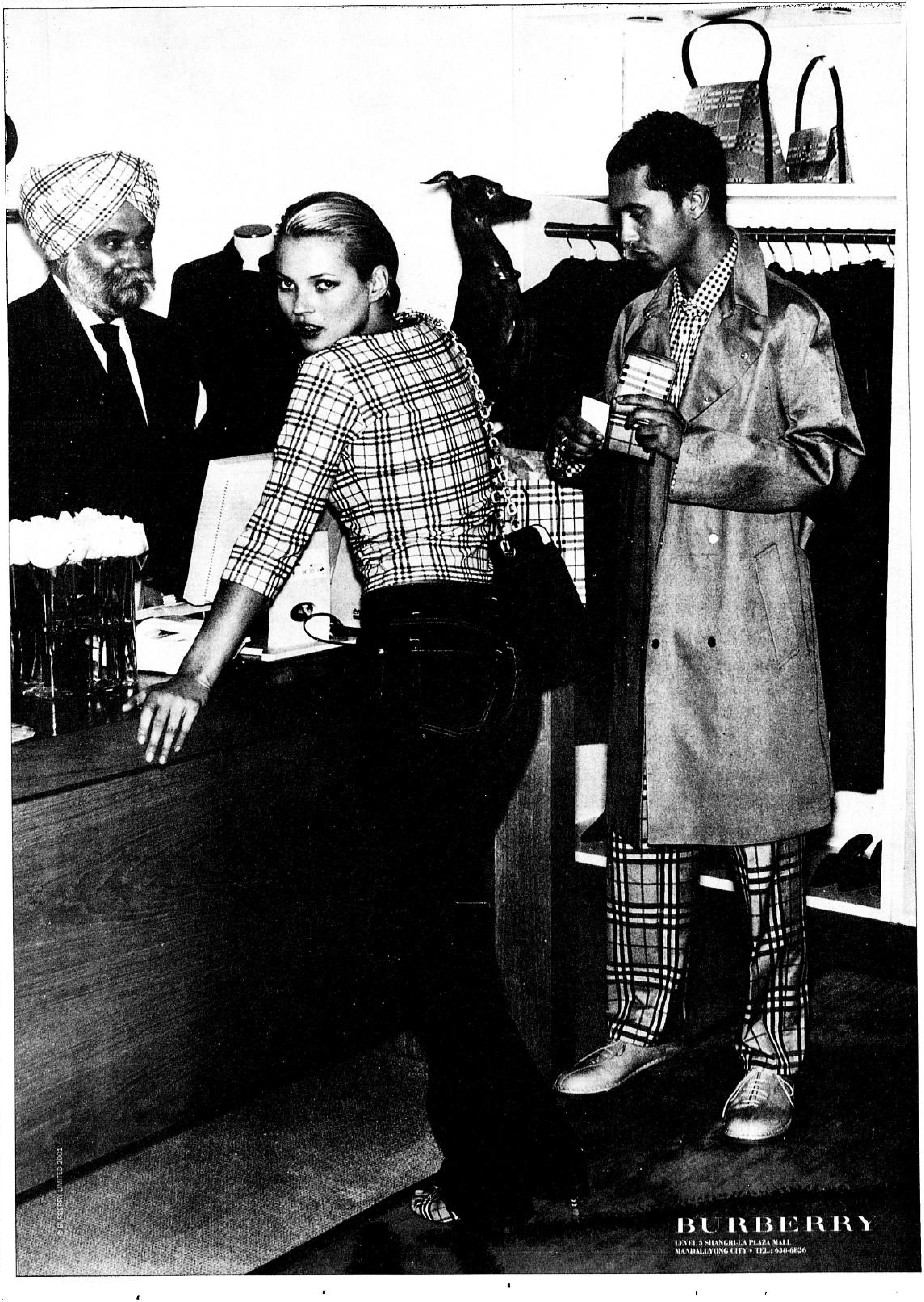
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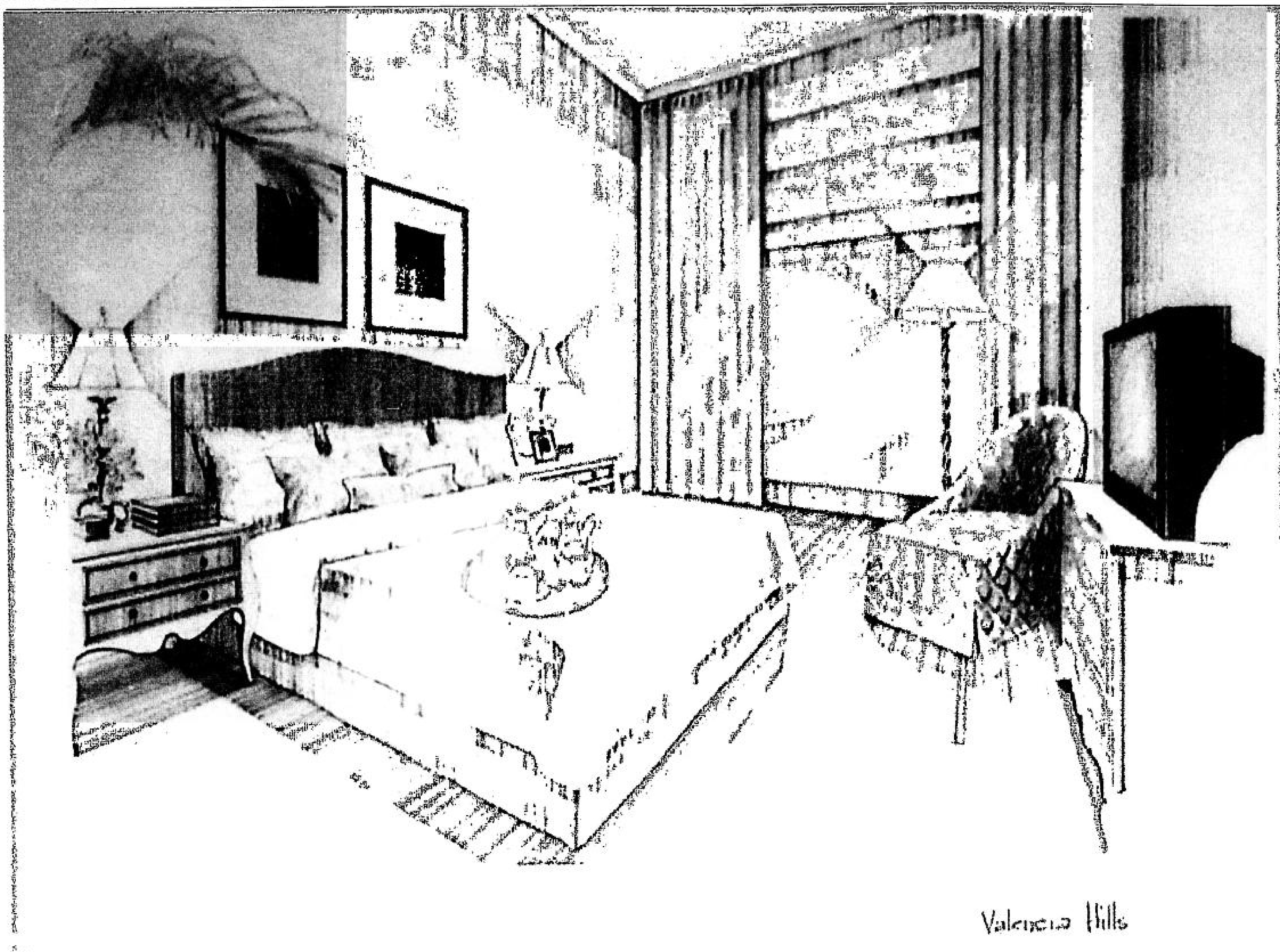


Performing a dazzling sisters' act, Ivy and Cynthia Almario raid diverse inspirations—from Orientalia to the old British countryside—to endow shops with a sense of surprise

IVY Almario's idea of an English-inspired bedroom with a padded chair and sage green chintz similar to the one featured at Lila Almario's shoe store.

From bedroom to showroom

(From page I1)

ror framed by dark wooden fretwork double as a wall accent.

"The pair of lanterns would look stunning in the foyer," says Cynthia. Ivy envisions them as a stylized replacement to overused bedside lampshades.

Speaking of lights, the two had to do away with soft yellow lights in favor of stark white pin lights. Again, it was a choice between setting the mood or pushing the products. After all, nobody wants to buy yellow-looking diamonds. "White [lights] can be very glaring," Ivy concedes, "but our priority is to sell the jewelry."

Despite this limitation, the two were able to come up with enough elements to turn an otherwise generic-looking jewelry store into a mini version of someone else's home. A lone alcove, for instance, features a rosewood stand with distinct Chinese carvings. Perched on top of the stand is a transparent vase filled with faux lilies stuck on rice grains.

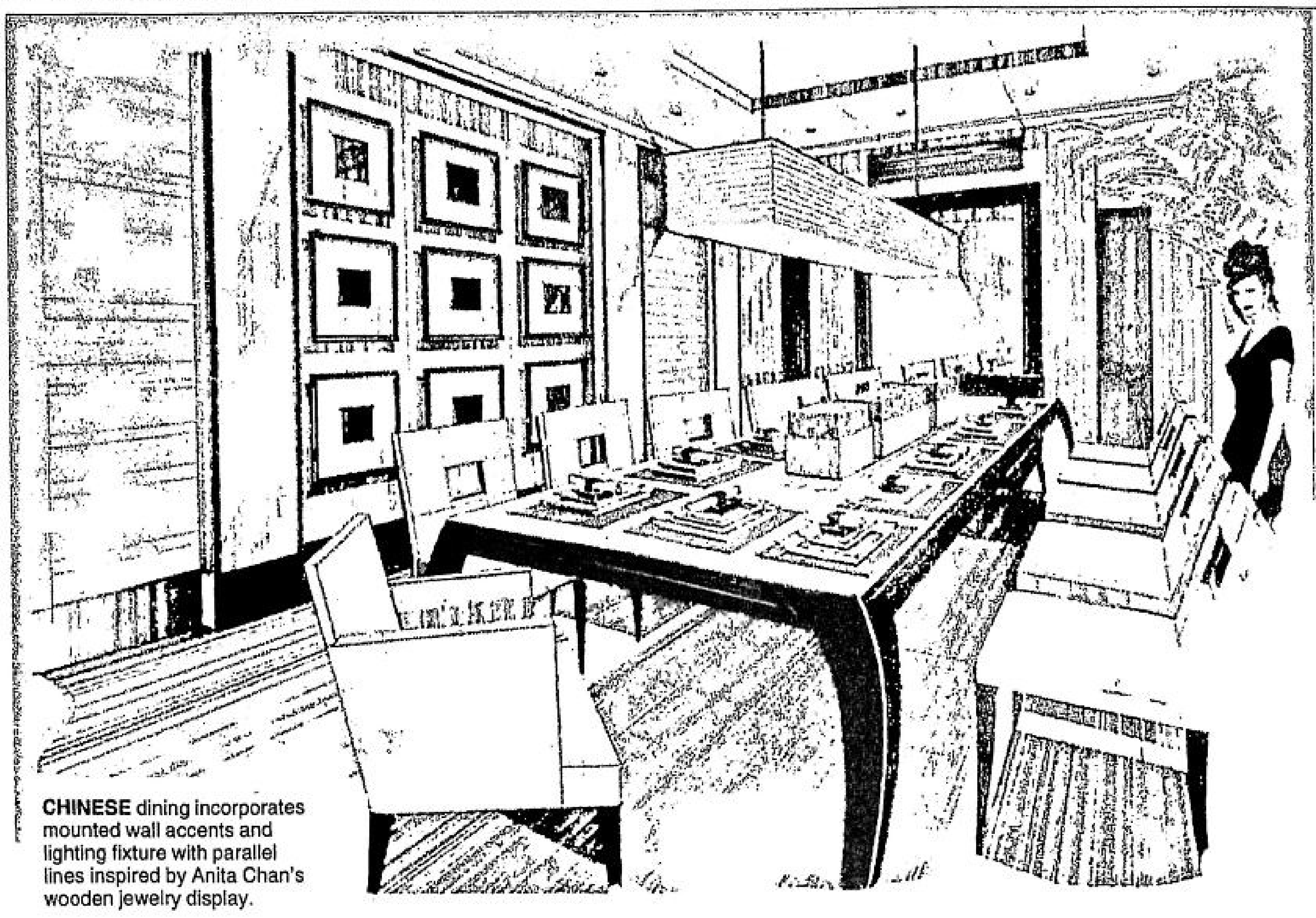
"Like the artwork outside Macau Pigeon, this alcove is a focal point designed to draw people's attention even before they see the merchandise," says Ivy.

The jewelry display isn't another glass showcase mounted on a huge block of wood. This time, they designed an eye-catching jewelry display with parallel lines made from

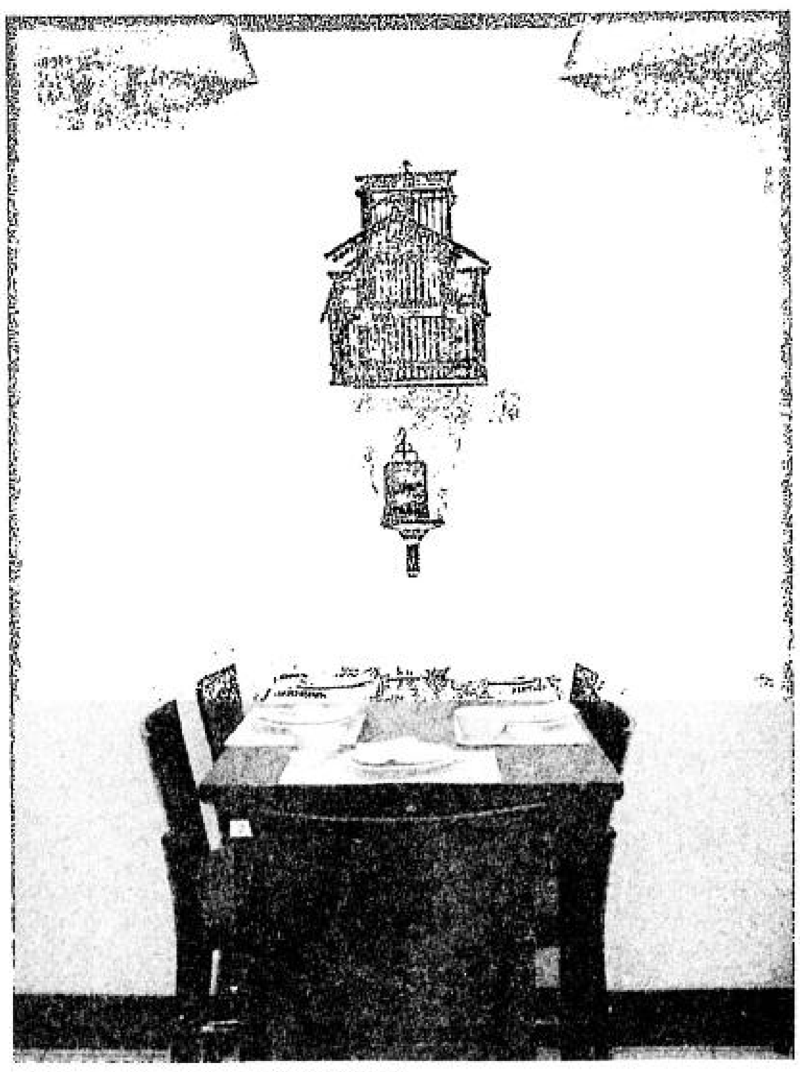
FROM/ p.13

IF THE SHOE FITS. Almario sisters fashion a giant pair of stilettos made of metal into toplaries featuring cousin Lila Almario's shoes.

LILA'S SECRET. Welcome to a woman's boudoir where even macho men want to linger.

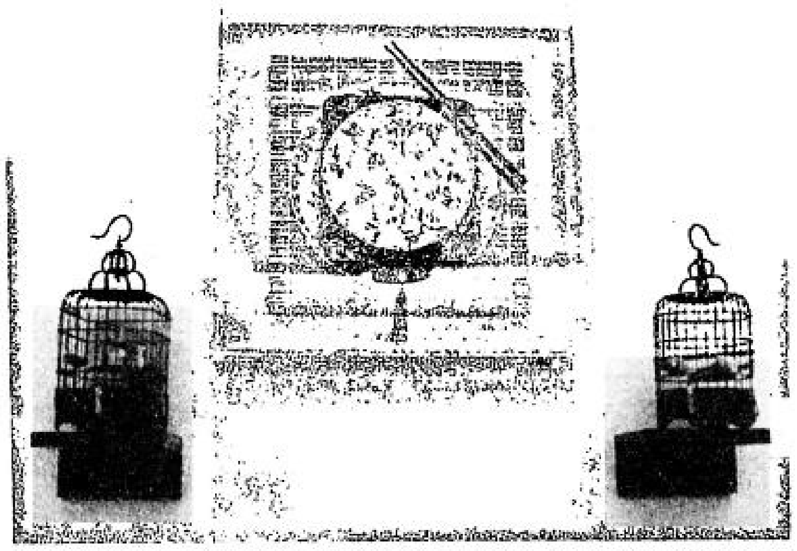


CHINESE dining incorporates mounted wall accents and lighting fixture with parallel lines inspired by Anita Chan's wooden jewelry display.



LIT alcove featuring empty birdcages

From bedroom to showroom



WHAT'S FOR DINNER? Chinese table setting and two empty birdcages have been turned to wall accents.

(From page 12)

mahogany but fashioned to look like stained wenge—a type of dark wood sourced from Africa.

"This piece can be modified into a bar or buffet cabinet," says Cynthia, while pointing to the jewelry display. "You can store china and flatware underneath."

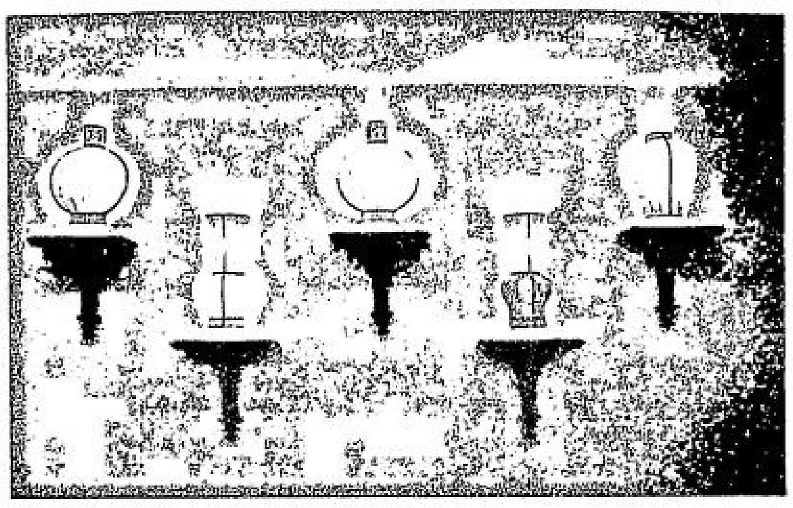
Yin and yang

Dark consoles accented with minimalist Chinese-inspired fretwork designed by Ivy set off the vitrines in pearlized beige. Call it the yin and yang of showroom furniture. The contrast is a refreshing departure from those drab display cabinets found in most jewelry stores.

Instead of a plain apothecary, so common in Chinese medicinal stores, the sisters designed a huge white piece by the wall that doubles as a display cabinet featuring square dishes fashioned from glazed ceramic. Now, don't get any ideas. The real stuff is behind the glass. The apothecary's drawers contain nothing but receipts and jewelry boxes.

While Chan's establishments drip with Oriental touches, Lila Almario's shoe store for women brims with romantic elements found in an

FROM/ p.14



WALL sconces at Macau Pigeon House

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BOOKWORM'S living room has plenty of cabinets and upright shelves similar to those found at Fino, to store books, videos and folders.

From bedroom to showroom

(From page 13)

English country home. Never mind if Cynthia's inspiration, a picture of a sprawling English estate near San Francisco, was made to fit 32 sq m of store space.

Aside from lilac walls and cabinets with glass shelves, other feminine elements include an upholstered panel with matching pair of chintz and several distressed furniture pieces.

A borne or circular sofa upholstered in the same printed fabric completes the "boudoir" look. Such an unusual piece is ideal for those lazy afternoons spent engaging in the latest gossip. The only items missing are tea and cookies.

But why use such an unusual color combination? "Lilac is in honor of Lila's name," explains Ivy, the owner's first cousin, "but as far as we know, the color has never been used in a store before. Surprisingly, however, it works. Of course, we had to source for the right shade of chintz to match the walls."

The sisters settled for a sage green fabric with hints of beige,

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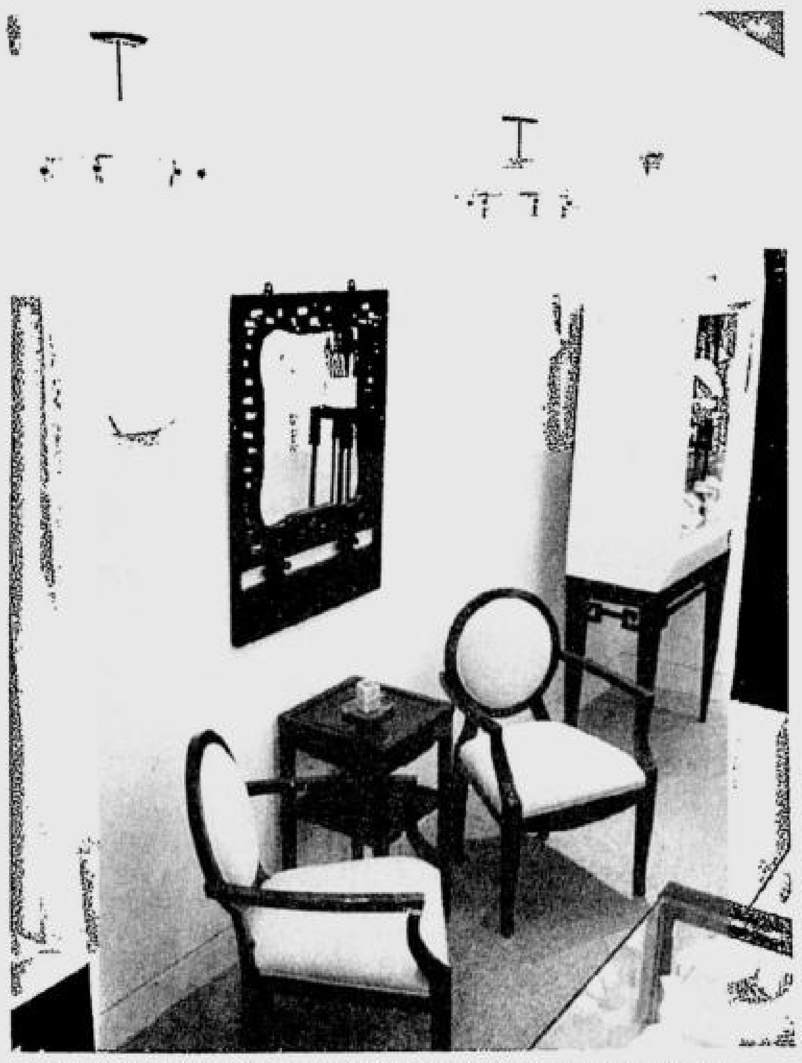
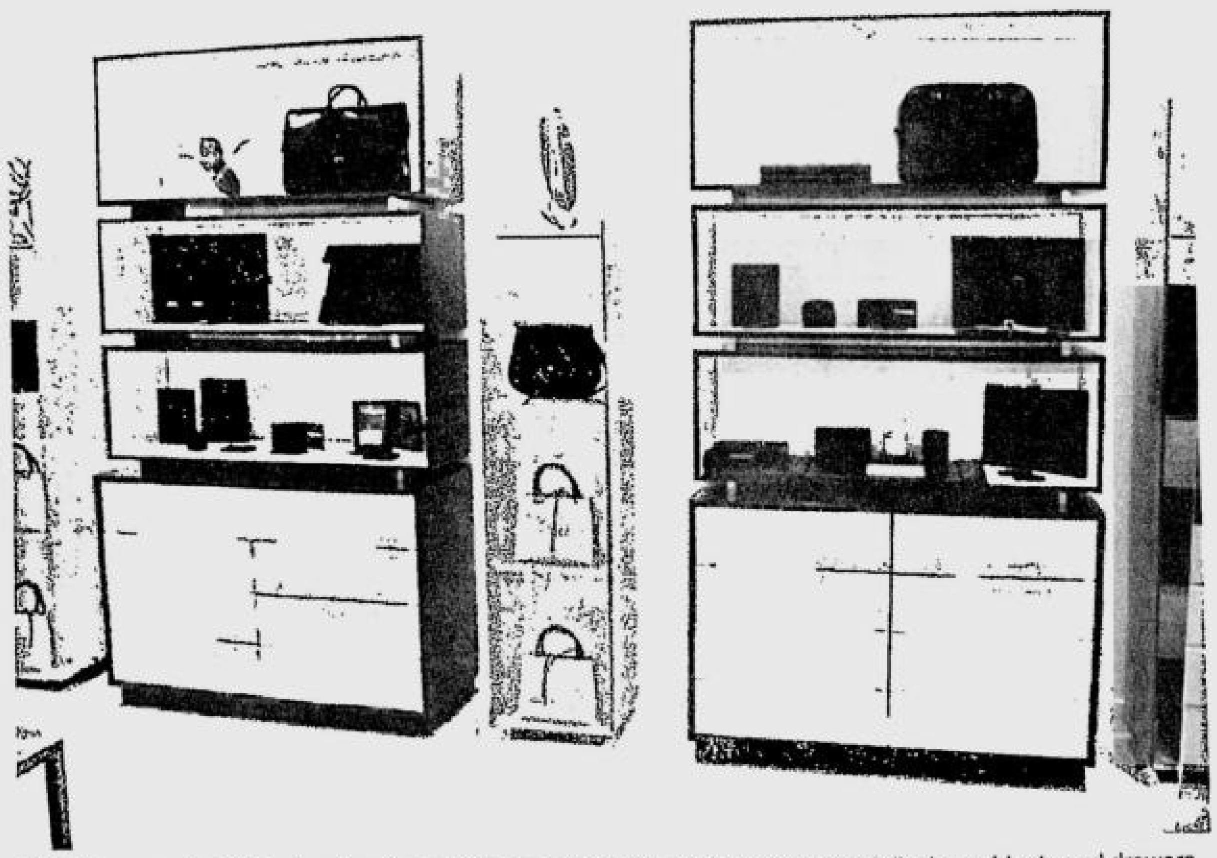
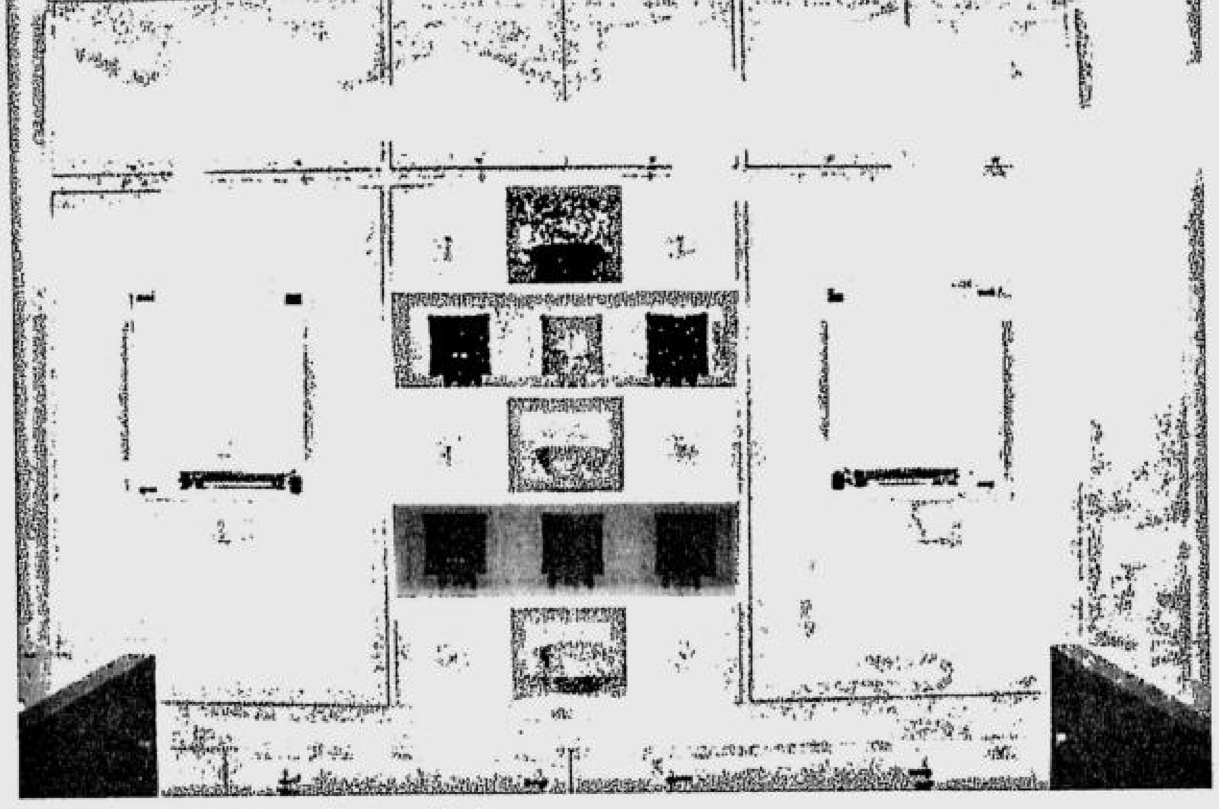


CHINESE furniture pieces at Anita Chan. A pair of lanterns will do instead of bedside lampshades for the home.



FINO'S new outlet at Rockwell projects Milanese chic in the *kamagong*-finished display cabinets and drawers wrapped in white leather. Note the tall glass shelves that display various purses.



APOTHECARY doubles as display cabinet.

AN UNSIGHTLY column is turned into a structural mirror lined with metal strips. Smaller items are placed on several parsons tables near the outlet's glass panels.

From bedroom to showroom

(From page I4)

taupe, gray and black. A sisal carpet provides a semblance of casual chic to the entire setup. Cynthia got the idea of combining classic and casual pieces from shops in Los Angeles.

Another attention-grabbing detail is a pair of giant stilettos made from a network of wires, which Cynthia fashioned into topiaries. They actually double as display stands for Lila's latest creations. It never fails to draw women in.

Oddly enough, even men, who usually stay outside while their partners try on every pair, couldn't resist entering Lila's domain. (Hmmm, ladies, that's probably one reason to pause and reexamine your men.) No man has yet to try on a pair himself, thank goodness, but some proved helpful in finding the right shoes for their mates. Of course, many of them were more than happy to foot the bill later.

"It's something I never expected," Lila says with a smile. "The place is probably the next best thing there is to a woman's room. And the men want to be invited in."

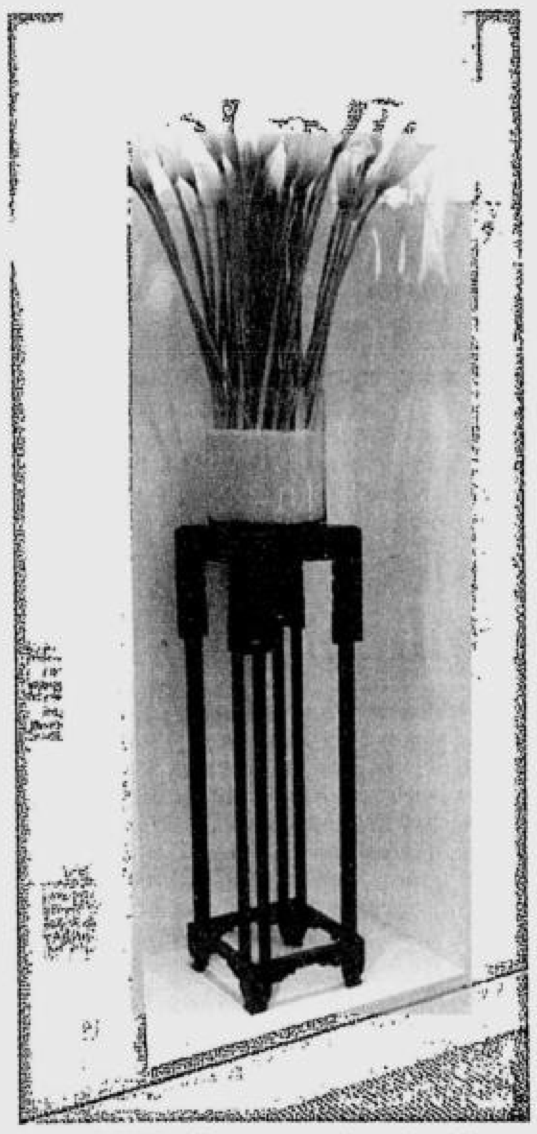
New look

Both customers and owners of Fino share the same enthusiasm. The leather goods company has always projected a formal image, which extends to the warm, Old English interiors of its older outlets. For its latest branch at Power Plant, however, Fino asked the sisters to come up with an entirely new look. And they did: Contemporary Milanese with plenty of "Gucci" brown display cabinets, upholstered white drawers (only the finest leather will do, of course) and vertical display shelves made of sandblasted glass sheets.

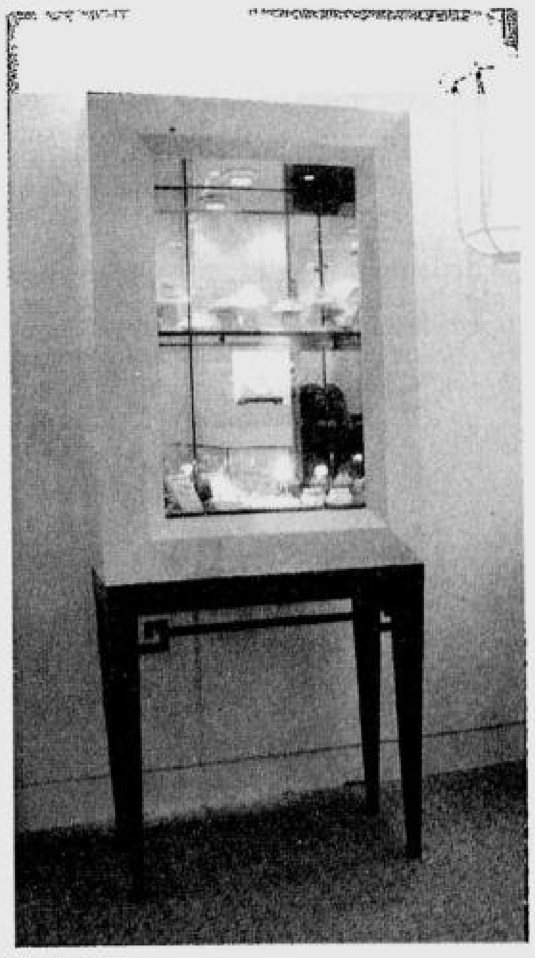
"The challenge to this space is the long frontage," says Ivy. "Then we had to work around a huge column that ate up a lot of space near the corner."

She virtually eliminated the column by wrapping several sides with single pieces of mirrors from floor to ceiling. Apart from providing the shop with an illusion of space, the structural mirrors reassure fastidious clients that they look fabulous with the Fino purse or briefcase they're about to buy.

Luckily, the outlet is located at the corner leading to the mall's restrooms. The sisters didn't pass up the chance to maximize the space to display Fino's finest. Bigger items are displayed on open shelves stacked on top of one another, while smaller items are placed on top of several parsons table by the outlet's glass panels.



AN ALCOVE with a rosewood stand and faux blooms provides the jewelry store with a focal point.



YIN AND YANG. A pearlized vitrine sits atop a Chinese-inspired console in wenge finish.

> The shop is the next best thing to a woman's room

Dark brown walls, which look black at certain angles, are really made of mahogany painted to look like *kamagong*. Metal strips highlight the dark walls, while artificial greens in large transparent vases soften an otherwise stark color scheme. Fino's owners have been reaping praises soon after the makeover.

"Now people at Shangri-La [mall] are hounding us for the 'Rockwell' look," says Roseann Bautista of Fino. "Since we have yet to install a billboard outside, people who come in are surprised to learn that we're selling a local brand."

Lila shares her observation: "Clients who come here say they feel like they're somewhere else." Anywhere but the Philippines? Anywhere but one's own bedroom is more like it.

Call Ivy and Cynthia Almario at 807-9698/ 8441/8267

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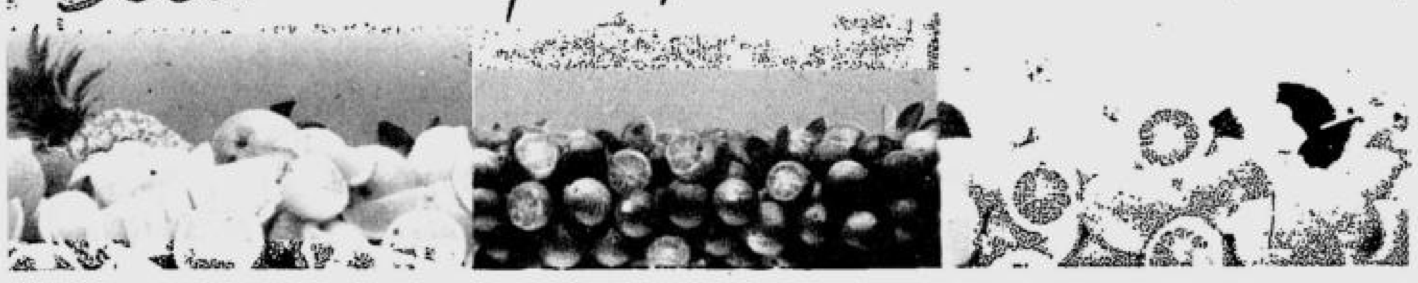

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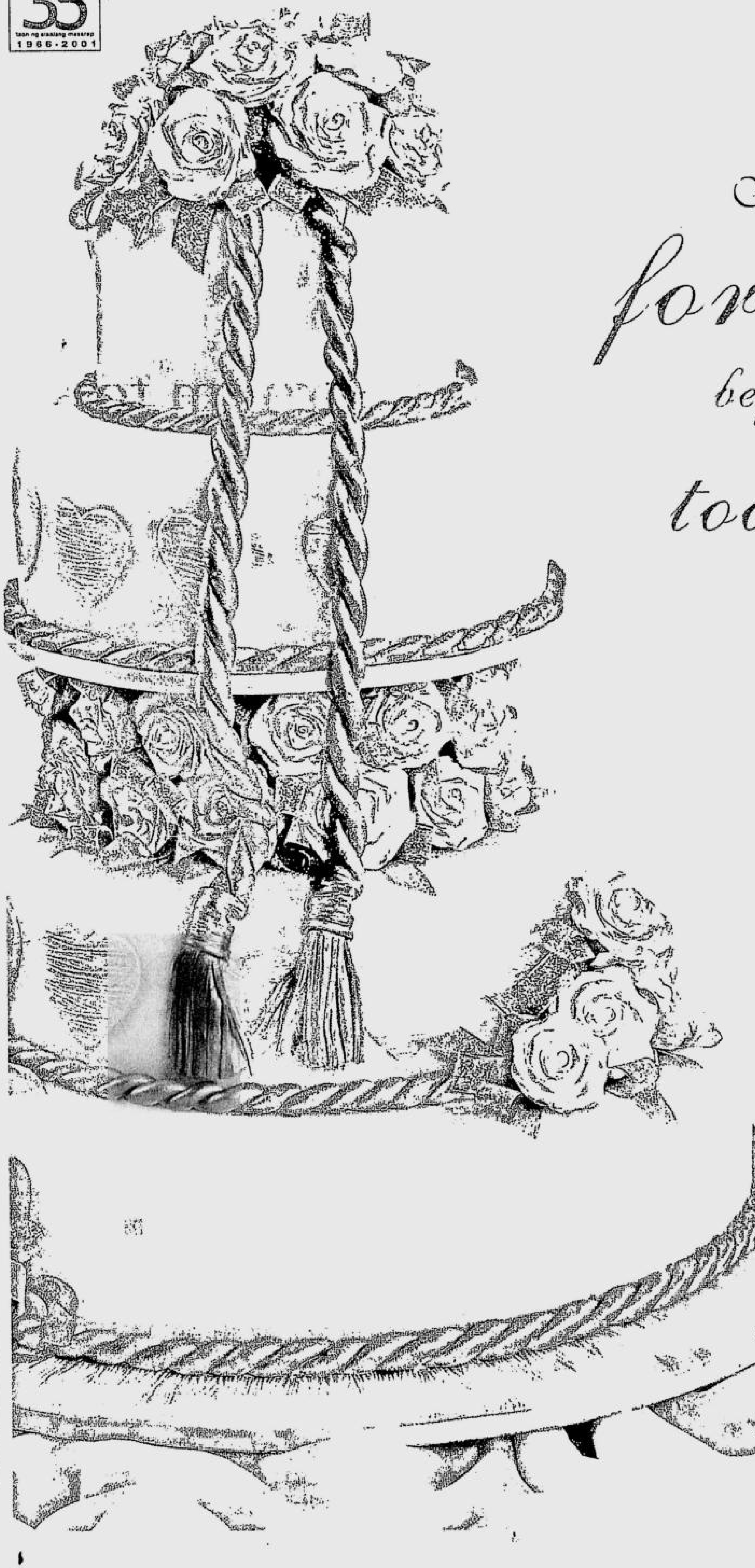

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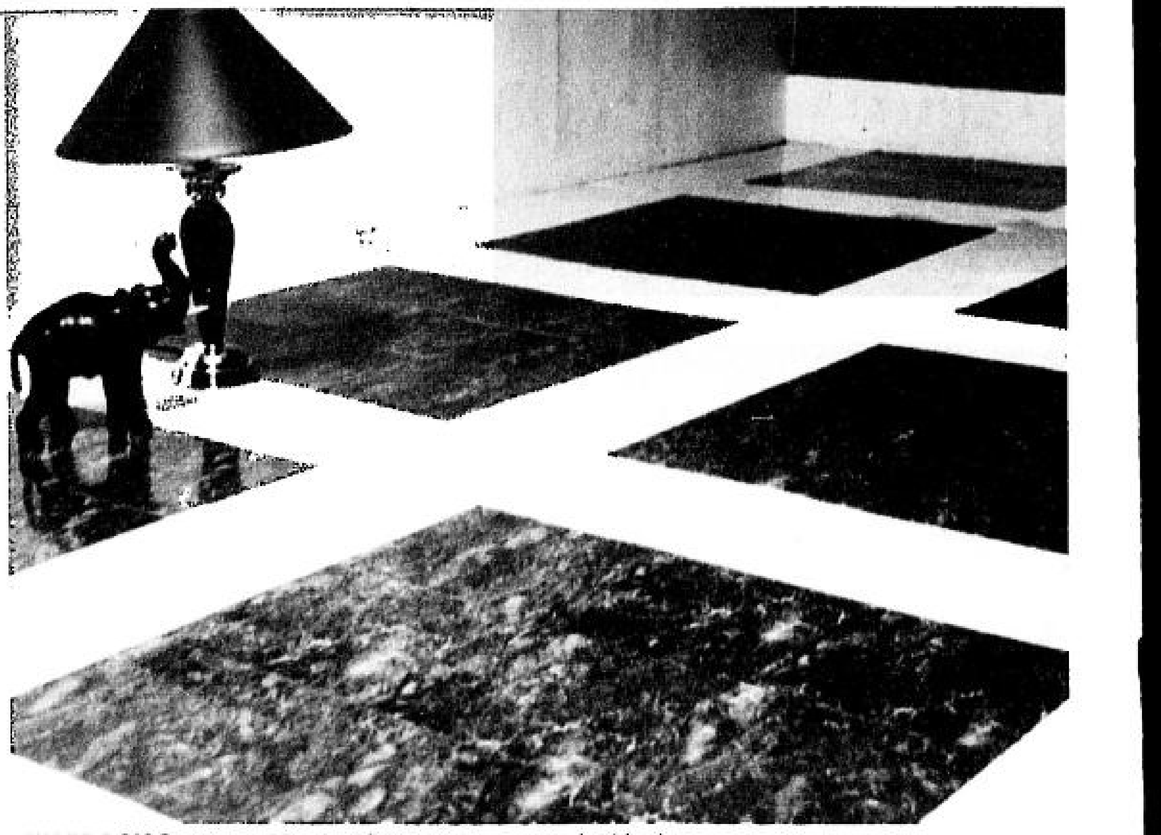
Vynil vanguard floors the competition

THE CONSTRUCTION boom of the '80s spawned a new breed of home and business owners who wanted more than aesthetics out of their living and working environments. These changes resulted in the appreciation of the "total look"—from color schemes, furniture pieces, lighting and the like. It wasn't long before flooring was also given its due importance.

Styles and trends used to dictate preferences for flooring materials. Current lifestyles, however, dictate more. Home and business owners are now opting not only for stylish and trendy floors, but also for those that are longer lasting and with the least maintenance worries. In response to this market need, Puyat Vinyl Products Inc. is launching its Platinum Collection of vinyl flooring materials.

Using state-of-the-art manufacturing technology, the Platinum Collection features initially wood strip and marble lines as its basic designs. It uses a laminated film replicating the real look of wood and marble. To achieve this, the line comes in flat or glossy and embossed or non-embossed finishes. Fading and floor deterioration are prevented with the line's thick wear layer, thereby minimizing scratching and chipping as well.

To suit the customer's requirements, the wood and marble selections offer various specific designs, sizes and gauges. Home and business owners who prefer a relaxed and homey look can opt for the wood selection's Light or Dark Oak, Honey Natural Oak, Medium Beech, Honey Walnut, and Golden Teak designs. All come in 4x36 inch sine planks with 1.3, 2, 2.5 and 3 mm thickness.



THE BLACK Storm marble vinyl floor evokes an opulent look.

Those who prefer a more opulent look can choose the marble selection, which boasts of designs such as Black Storm, Murk Grey, Pearl Mist and Cream Mist. Buyers can choose between 300x300 mm or 450x450 mm, which is the standard size of a real marble slab. All designs come in 1.3, 1.5, 2, 2.5 and 3 mm thickness and are either embossed or non-embossed.

The wood and marble selections come with a 10-year warranty, an after-sales service feature originated by Puyat Vinyl in the country. Accredited laying contractors, closely supervised by quality control inspectors, are also available for proper installation. The company can also provide a quality control supervisor for customers to ensure proper installation.

The Platinum Collection of vinyl floor tiles will be formally launched in a "Dealer's Night" soon, which will mark Puyat Vinyl's 10th year in the business.

"The market has matured. It has moved forward in terms of its taste and requirements. We have to keep up with the times. We have to be constantly innovating and re-inventing ourselves," said John P. Reyes, vice president and general manager of Puyat Vinyl.

Asked to explain Puyat Vinyl's success, Alex L. Araneta, Puyat Vinyl sales and marketing director, noted the excellent products. All products, he said, have met international standards. Aggressive marketing is another reason. It is involved in trade-related with the United Architects of the Philippines and Philippine Institute of Architects, among others.

Customer sensitivity is another reason. Stocks are always ready and available. Puyat Vinyl also responds immediately to customer problems.

"Be wise in your flooring requirements," Reyes advises home and business owners. "Aesthetics will be there. The difference is if the company can offer you performance with aesthetics. I feel we are the only local company that can offer that."

Sale at Duty Free Philippines

IT'S all about nature as fashion swings back to spring-summer at Fashion Walk, the new fashion haven at Duty Free Philippines.

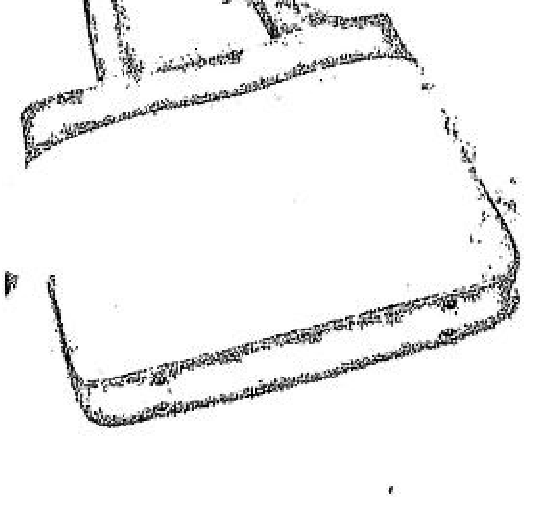
A savage turn in femininity is what Salvatore Ferragamo offers this season as it pays homage to wild Africa. Exotic elegance punctuates the allure of spring-summer with wild African prints, leopard haircalf, whipsnake and soft florals and crystal headings adorning handbags with rich innovative details, modern silhouettes and bold colors.

A colorful range of straw bags and canvas totes in versions of the Burberry check tells the beach story for Burberry London. Silk scarves and stoles bring floral and oceanic images to life in exciting new colors of saffron, lime, mauve and tangerine.

Perfectly suited in weekend or city living, house totes from Wile, Longchamp, Bagutta and Nannini define style for spring renewal.

Get a surprise change with Kipling's Twister Collection, a perfect reflection of the high-tech eco fashion. The "incomplete" appearance of prints and accessories gives the entire collection a genuine handmade look. Greens, blues and browns dominate the scene with contrasting interior linings of poison green, red, fuchsia, orange and turquoise.

Natural material strikes back with Benetton's spring-summer salvo. Uneven in colors and coarser in texture, the natural materials' imperfections draw the collection to real life touching the hearts of many.



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